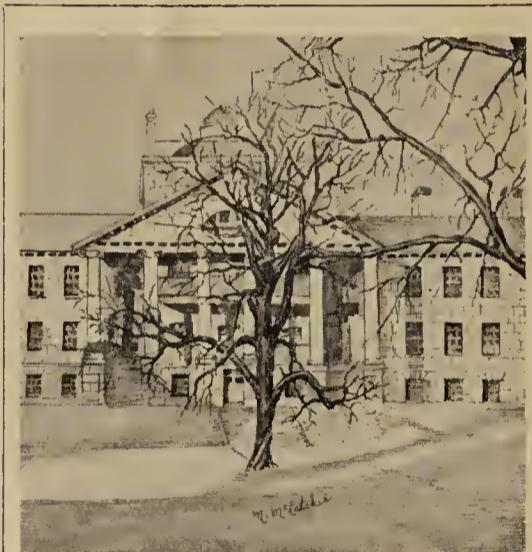


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Dr. Nathaniel W. Laxon



The spirit in which we have labored is I think expressed in the Chaplain's Invocation given on "Hospital Day" under the African palm trees in the courtyard of our Hospital in Casablanca, French Morocco.

HOSPITAL DAY INVOCATION

Almighty and Eternal Father, we have gathered together today to commemorate once more the inauguration of the mission of mercy undertaken by our unit over a quarter of a century ago.

One year ago today we gathered in our own beloved homeland to spur ourselves on to the tasks that then lay ahead, by recollecting the record of achievement established by our predecessors, and by contemplating the nobility of the work to which we have been dedicated.

Since that time we have known some days and nights of arduous labor, and some peril; and have, through the talents and strength received from Thee, accomplished some good in alleviating human suffering and misery.

We gratefully acknowledge that throughout this year Thou hast supported us in the palm of Thy hand, and that the good we have done was made possible by the faculties Thou hast conferred upon us.

What lies before us in the year to come, Thou alone knowest. We humbly beseech Thee to sustain us by Thy power, guide us by Thy wisdom, and inspire us by Thy divine charity, that we may bring health and comfort to the broken bodies and tortured minds of our patients.

Grant boundless patience and tenderness to our nurses and men in the fulfillment of their arduous tasks; great zeal and skill to our doctors; wisdom and paternal benevolence to our Commanding Officer and his staff, that our accomplishment during the ensuing year may be adequate, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

It is not for us to set a mark on our accomplishment. Our countrymen shall judge the worth of our contribution. Our Divine Savior shall judge the worth of our efforts.

CARROLL BOLAND, S. J.

The Story of the

SIXTH GENERAL HOSPITAL



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9405

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This book was begun late in the game, having been started during our inactive period in Rome, Italy. By that time many members had been lost through transfer and rotation and with them was lost considerable amount of book material, especially photographs. The photos in this book were selected from a large collection of pictures taken by W. A. Shriver and Henry Sherwood, augmented by photos from Frank Savoy, Maj. Alfred Kranes, Francis Gill and many others.

The history of the departments were written by many individuals listed above. There were many who made this book possible but special acknowledgment is due the following:

Col. Goethals for his assistance and encouragement, Col. D. S. King, M.C., Maj. Eleanor Pitman, A.N.C., Lt. Edna A. Hurd, A.N.C., Maj. E. B. Herwick, M.A.C., Col. H. Rogers, M.C., Maj. Chas. L. Short, M.C., Lt. Beth Andrews, H.D. and Lt. Frances Purcell, A.N.C., for their valuable cooperation and to many others who expended much time and energy in producing this book.

THE EDITOR.



W. A. Shriver, Editor



FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP



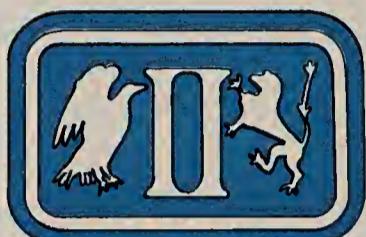
FIFTH ARMY



SEVENTH ARMY



IV CORPS



II CORPS



VI CORPS



3RD · MARNE



34 TH · RED BULL



36TH · TEXAS



45 TH · THUNDERBIRD



86 TH · CUSTER



88 TH · BLUE DEVIL



91 ST · WILD WEST



92 ND · BUFFALO



1ST · ARMORED



TANK DESTROYERS



9TH · DIVISION



2 ND · ARMORED



1ST · DIVISION



442 ND · REGT



1ST · SPEC. SERVICE



PENINSULAR BASE



82 ND · AIRBORNE



AMPHIBIOUS COMMAND



10 TH · MOUNTAIN



3RD · BATTALLION

FORWORD

In the first agony of another World War, we sought peace among men. But when hostile powers threatened our way of life and attacked our country, America awakened to gird herself for a great conflict and many works that had been quietly simmering boiled over in violent reaction to a violent attack.

In World War I, there was near Bordeaux in France, an American Hospital known as Base Hospital No. 6. The parent organization of this unit was the Massachusetts General Hospital. The story of Base Hospital No. 6 is told elsewhere. After that war certain energetic and realistic individuals kept alive the beating heart of this unit under the Bullfinch dome.

On December 7th 1941 our country was attacked by Japan. Ways and means of returning the old unit to service were set into motion, and on May 15th, 1942, the official activation of the 6th General Hospital called into life the old unit under the leadership of Col. Thomas R. Goethals. We undertook our basic training in Camp Blanding, Florida.

In January 1942 we boarded trains headed north and two days later arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. A two weeks preparation for embarkation found us sailing out of New York Harbor for an unknown destination. A pleasant though not uneventful voyage brought us to Casablanca, French Morocco, where we spent fifteen months. Then the famous "40-and-8s" brought us to Oran and the Hospital Ship Shamrock, two weeks later, carried us to Naples, whence we moved by Landing Craft to Anzio, to Rome. Eleven months completed our work in the Eternal City and with the fall of Bologna we moved in to support the Po Valley drive. The collapse of the enemy and Victory, left us ready but not needed, for Americans in large numbers. So under the Geneva Conference we also cared for our fallen enemy.



The Story to follow is about a group of American civilians who became soldiers. It is an account of how a group of people became an organization with pride and spirit.

For those of us who were there it will revive many memories. Through its pages and pictures we will be able to recall many hectic days of training—many days of anxiety—many backbreaking days devoted to the care of the sick and wounded.

We believe that our story is particularly interesting because we were part of it. However, others may also find it worth reading.

ORIGIN of the 6TH GENERAL HOSPITAL

In the Spring of 1940, when France was being over-run by Nazi panzer divisions, England was arming Home Guard companies with shotguns, and Americans were either lost in bewildered apathy or engaged in hysterical name-calling, Dr. Nathaniel Faxon, Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, received a letter from the Surgeon General in Washington. After consulting the governing boards and committees of the hospital, Dr. Faxon called a meeting of the hospital staff.

The letter recalled the fine record of Base Hospital 6, the MGH unit in World War One, and asked that, pursuant to War Department authorization dated November 1939, the MGH organize a similar unit for overseas duty in the event of war, the unit to be called the 6th General Hospital. After reading the letter to the staff, Dr. Faxon asked for brief comments from several veterans of Base Hospital 6. He then announced that it was a matter for the considered decision of each individual member of the staff, and that he would ask each one to reply by return postcard within a week. He added that, in the event of a favorable reply, the hospital authorities reserved the right to select the men best qualified to fill the higher positions and to declare certain applicants whose work was essential to the needs of the parent hospital, unavailable.

Within a few days enough cards had been returned to assure a favorable reply to the Surgeon General's letter. Lt. Col. T. R. Goethals, Medical Reserve, a member of the obstetrical staff, was suggested by the hospital authorities as Unit Director pending assignment of a Commanding Officer by the War Department. Dr. Wyman Richardson was suggested for Chief of the Medical Service, and Dr. H. Rogers for Chief of the Surgical Service. Together with Col. Goethals and Capt. Neil L. Crone, Medical Reserve, they began at once selecting and processing candidates for the professional services. As a prophetic introduction to Army officiaidom, the War Department urged great haste in the completion of the original table of organization strength—as if the boat were already waiting, whereas even the invention of the five-letter word which could most aptly have described the situation was still some three years in the future. Before the T/O was entirely up to strength the War Department rescinded the old T/O and issued a new and greatly augmented one. Many applications for commission were refused on the grounds of minor physical disabilities, among them Dr. Richardson's, Dr. D. S. King succeeding to the position of Chief of Medical Service. Many were declared essential by the hospital authorities and therefore not available. Among the earliest volunteers to be recommended for commissions were Drs. Rogers, Richardson, Bartlett, Bland, H. H. Faxon, Hunter, King, Lingley, Taylor, Gundersen, Carnes, Kelley, Ludwig, Parsons, Pratt, Sturgis, Talbott, Welch, Godfrey, Aufrane, Davenport, Frazee, Graham, Hamlin, Ingalls, Simmons, O. S. Staples, Sullivan, Ulfelder and Boynton. The assignment of Lts. Burrage, Sarris and Thorpe to the 6th General Hospital was requested, and the correspondence file was rapidly assuming formidable proportions, particularly on the desk of Lt. Col. F. M. Fitts in the Surgeon General's office.

By September 1940 the first commissions began to come through, and it was possible to start a course of inactive duty training two evenings a month at the MGH. On July 1, 1941 Col. Goethals, now a full Colonel, reported for extended active duty at the office of the Surgeon, First Army, Governor's Island, N. Y., leaving Lt. Col. Rogers as Acting Unit Director. In November 1941 the latter also succumbed to the call of active duty and was assigned as Chief of Surgical Service, Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S. C., leaving the swollen correspondence file in the lap of Lt. Col. King.

During July and August of 1940, sixty nurses had completed their applications for enrollment in the First Reserve of the American Red Cross, and Miss Sally Johnson of the M.G.H. Training School Office had suggested Miss Kathleen Atto as Chief Nurse, later replaced by Miss Doris K. Knights. By May 1941, eighty-five nurses had been accepted for war service. Between May 1941 and May 1942 eighty hospital technicians and other craftsmen in civilian jobs volunteered for war service before their local Selective Service Boards and were requested for assignment to The 6th General Hospital on its activation.

Meanwhile, in February, 1941, the Commanding Officer of the Station Hospital, Camp Blanding, Florida, received War Department orders to establish a cadre of one officer and 13 men to

form the 63rd General Hospital. Lt. Shaw, who was selected, accordingly opened his headquarters, in a small room in the Station Hospital and assumed command of the cadre.

On February 15, 1941, Lt. W. S. Worthy, the first of five officers already on active service elsewhere, reported for duty with the 63rd General Hospital, relieving Lt. Shaw. The next day, February 16, Lt. V. D. Smith arrived and took over the command from Lt. Worthy. In March 1941 Capt. W. C. Knott, M. C., U. S. Army, took over command of the 63rd General Hospital from Lt. Smith. Meanwhile Lts. H. H. Fowler and F. J. Strohmenger had reported for duty. Between May 9 and May 15, 1941 two hundred and fifty enlisted men arrived from the induction center at Fort Niagara, N. Y., most of them residents of upper New York State, and few if any with more than two weeks service in the army. Basic training began at once. Later, groups and individuals were sent for courses of technical training to Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver, and Camp Barkley, Texas.

The first professional work the 63rd General Hospital did as a unit was in October and November of 1941. Together with a Convalescent Hospital and two Station Hospitals at Fort Bragg, N. C., they treated the casualties resulting from the Carolina maneuvers. On their return to Camp Blanding they resumed their basic and technical training and carried it to an unusually high point of excellence.

As May 15, 1942 approached, the 63rd General Hospital received orders to transfer all its personnel to the 6th General Hospital with the exception of one officer and twelve men. The five officers drew lots, and Lt. Strohmenger became Commanding Officer of the 63rd General Hospital under orders to organize replacements to form the personnel of a new hospital, which later proved to be the 37th General Hospital. When the 37th absorbed the new personnel of the 63rd, the latter ceased to exist.

On May 15, 1942 the 6th General Hospital was activated. The officers, nurses, and enlisted men from Boston combined with the officers and enlisted men under Major Knott at Camp Blanding to form the completed 6th General Hospital under Col. Goethals as Commanding Officer.

H. ROGERS, COL., MC
Chief of Surgical Service.





COLONEL THOMAS R. GOETHALS
Medical Corps, U. S. Army
*Commanding Officer of the 6th General
Hospital from
May 15, 1942 until March 19, 1945*



COLONEL WILLIAM O. H. PROSSER
Medical Corps, U. S. Army
*Commanding Officer of the 6th General
Hospital from
May 4, 1945 until July 30, 1945*



Air-view of Camp Blanding, Florida

CAMP BLANDING

After more than three years and all that comes in between, precise dates and exact chronological order seem to have become merged into a series of pictures, — some sharp, some blurred, some strictly personal, some shared by everyone, but all dominated by a hot sun burning down on acres of flat sand with scrub pines, tents, newsboys and stray cows everywhere, and tall water tanks always in the distance. You can smell the soft tar on Dade Road. You can see the heat waves shimmer above that long stretch beside the artillery range. You can taste the first mouthful of cold "coke" after a long hike. You can feel the soft water of Kingsley Lake around your middle. Sometimes

you wish you were there again, other times you never want to see any part of it again, ever.

Do you remember the big lumps of gravel on the motor park throwing you off balance on about face by the numbers? And how the loud speaker always got the beat on the wrong foot after it had stopped to have the phonograph wound? Are you willing to admit now that just once, and just for a moment, you felt a little unexpected thrill at the sight of a platoon movement executed with faultless precision, sucker though you knew you were for feeling it?

In the afternoons, barring a hike, small, earnest groups of figures in fatigues sat on

Erecting Tents



Officers' Quarters, Blanding



Our Home for Several Months





After signing on "Dotted Line" May 15th, 1942

the sand in the inadequate patches of shade under small pine trees while sweat rolled down the faces of the officer instructors as they demonstrated the removal of a plaster cast, drew diagrams of the heart, or asked questions about sterilizing technique. On rare occasions a sudden shower drove us all under cover, but you probably won't admit you remember any such lucky break.

Is there anyone who didn't goldbrick a hike at least once? How quiet the area seemed with everyone gone. And how pleasing and restful to think of the platoons flanking across the road to turn a corner, sitting on the hot pine needles to get their wind, and shambling to close up after splashing across a muddy stream on a slippery log in the woods back of the camp incinerators.

You can recall the obstacle course if you want to. I'll keep the bruised shins, blistered hands, etc., and skip the memories. The same goes for the hikes. But let's not forget to give the old men credit for not *always* coming home in an ambulance. One of the kindest provisions of nature is the tendency of human beings to forget disagreeable things and remember pleasant ones. Maybe that accounts for the high incidence of amnesia in the army.

Jacksonville, Gainsville, and even Starke on a Saturday night are worth remembering. St. Augustine Beach, Silver Springs and, for the lucky few, Ponte Vedra and Azaleana Manor will always be unforgettable. Lying on the white sand with the drowsy sound of cool waves in your ears, long

Nurses Arriving in Blanding



Stretching a leg or two



Gas Mask Drill





Left to right. Front Row: Maj. J. A. Halsted, Maj. J. H. Townsend, Maj. Langdon Parsons, Maj. E. F. Bland, Col. T. R. Goethals, Lt. Col. D. S. King, Maj. John Talbott, Maj. W. T. S. Thorndike, Maj. S. B. Kelley.

Second Row: Maj. M. K. Bartlett, Maj. G. W. Taylor, Maj. H. H. Faxon, Maj. C. L. Short, Maj. Trygve Gundersen, Capt. Garrett Sullivan, Capt. Howard Suby, Maj. Alfred Kranes.

Third Row: Maj. J. M. Thomas, Capt. O. E. Aufranc, Capt. O. S. Staples, Capt. S. H. Sturgis, Capt. F. H. Chaffee, Capt. R. J. Clark, Capt. L. F. Davenport, Capt. Otto Sahler.

Fourth Row: Capt. J. R. Graham, Capt. D. C. Daves, Capt. T. S. Hamilton, Capt. J. R. Frazee, Capt. O. A. Ludwig, Capt. Harold DeMers, Capt. R. G. Whiting, Capt. J. W. Zeller, Capt. H. B. F. Seyfarth.

Top Row: Maj. E. G. Thorp, 1st Lt. W. E. Arnold, Capt. D. J. Holland, 1st Lt. S. M. Wyman, 1st Lt. W. B. Burrage, 1st Lt. J. B. McKittrick, 1st Lt. C. R. Coggins, 1st Lt. M. B. Harrison, 1st Lt. K. B. Lawrence, 1st Lt. Sedgwick Mead, 1st Lt. R. M. Bailey, Capt. S. P. Sarris.

Passing in Review





**Ready for
a Hike**



**After a Hike
and a Shower**



**A thrill you'll never forget
pitching your 1st one**

lines of porpoises, pelicans, and bathing beauties to look at, and a bottle of beer in your stomach was a pretty good war if you could get it.

The Station Hospital was memorable chiefly for the miles of corridors inside, the miles of officers' cars outside (about 7 p.m.) and Col. Trout's fountain in front. If a nurse in years to come should find herself absently humming "One Dozen Roses", "Three Little Sisters", or "White Christmas" to her grandchildren while trying to think of suitable answers to "What did you do in The Great War, Grandma?" it would mean her mind was woolgathering beside the long-since deserted eastern shore of Kingsley Lake.

Probably none of us thought of Blanding as "home" while we were there, but we did live there, some for almost two years, almost all for the better part of one year. In January of 1943 we left for overseas duty, and only then did Blanding begin to look like home to us. Now, after more than two years away from the United States, even our disagreeable memories of Camp Blanding, Florida, must be faintly tinged with homesickness.

H. ROGERS
*Colonel, Medical Corps
Chief of Surgical Service*

Little Chapel in Blanding



CAMP KILMER

Our travel orders arrived 18 January 1943, and, having been in an alerted status for several weeks, we were anxious to depart. The following morning dawned gray and cold as we dressed, collected our equipment and fell out in company order to answer roll call. We marched to the railroad siding happy to leave our Florida camp with its sand, flies, and depressing Spanish moss that hung forlorn from all the trees.

We waited long at the siding, as the bitter cold drove all sleep away. Many sought refuge by covering up with overcoats. Finally outmodeled coaches creaked and groaned to a stop in front of us, and we entered eagerly for hopeful warmth. Off we started for our staging area with a converted coach as our food kitchen, and the prospects of warm coffee were shortly realized. Many men spent hours improvising beds from seat backs to assist in their comfort for the night. Some succeeded and some did not, but an uncomfortable time was had by all. Eating, reading, and smoking consumed most of the new day. We were dirty and unshaven when late in

the afternoon we arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. There, we were quartered in un-inspiring, though comfortable, large square barracks.

Close order drill and marches were in the offing on the ice-snow covered ground, some slipping here and there to earn a laugh from others who were stumbling along. One occasion we engaged in a snow fight to keep us in condition. We envied those men in one building who were quarantined for measles. During this period no passes were issued and G.I. films created our social life.

On February 7th, loaded down with new equipment, essential for foreign service, we slowly departed by train as the sound of farewell tunes from an army band gradually died away.

After ferrying across to Staten Island we struggled to our transport beneath our heavy equipment and barracks bags. Pier 13 was ours, and slowly we filed up the gang plank giving our name and serial number, only to be swallowed by the silent gray, breathing, water monster.

BON VOYAGE

We felt the good ship Brazil at last beneath our feet and with approximately 5000 others, we pulled and pushed our way to our allotted quarters. Bunks four high hardly enough space to slide into and narrow passage-ways between them were assigned to us. Our equipment and barracks bag slept with us, we ourselves seemed excess baggage. Stepping to the floor invited right of way problems for all of us.

Life belts worn always, and boat drill at all times assured our readiness for attack. Each sunset saw anti-aircraft practice by the gunners and a large powerful gun at the stern also grumbled a practice shot, deafening in its roar.

Two meals each day saw us crowding down the narrow passages toward the ship's mess, but hunger left no room for criticism. Salt water for showers and shaves, made us "old salts" at sea in short order. But the sea was good to us and few were sick.

Lights were not allowed outside and woe to the careless ones, as we plowed through the nights in grim silence, guarded by our efficient escort comprising a battleship, aircraft carrier, cruiser, and some ten destroyers.

Music was played for the men and boxing matches arranged for the more strenuous. We read, talked, played cards, chess, and checkers, and admired the seascopic and surrounding convoy. Books given us on how to act in North Africa gave us our destination and immediately we became Arabic students.

Each morning we arose with relief, rubbed our aches and pains, ate in due time, then sought the salty air of the deck. Our escort was large and presented a beautiful picture to early morning deck-goers. It was always before us and one never seemed to weary of watching the great ships maneuvering continually to maintain their assigned positions.

Day after day the whole world seemed to consist solely of ocean and our bobbing convoy its only sign of life. Night after night the stars were contemplated and the phosphorescent wake churned up by the speedy ships. Finally, after 11 days, a thin line slowly developed on the horizon and grew larger as the hours slipped by. Africa, with all its mystery and strangeness lay before us, intensified by the dark cloud of war which lay over it.

Coming nearer we saw a lighthouse and from there on we were impatient to feel land under our feet again. At this point part of our convoy sailed from us to go through the Straits of Gibraltar to land on the Mediterranean coast. The rest of us weighed anchor, contemplated what was "Casablanca", and waited patiently for further moves. Next day we gathered all our things together in preparation to disembark, but after waiting many hours we were directed to sleep the night on board.

Early next morning saw us steaming in to take our place at the Quay, and we lined the decks as excitement increased among us. Many ships lay sunk in the harbor due to the earlier initial allied invasion of the port, but we learned that the French capitulated after a short period of confusion, for their basic sympathy was for the Allied cause. Approaching us from all sides, rowing small boats, were our new friends, the Arabs, in their well worn garments which had many stains and rips. We tossed down cigarettes, etc; and in confidence some "C" rations which we believe they really enjoyed. They paddled around like hungry seagulls and chattered continuously, laughing and smiling up at us.

Finally we disembarked and marched through the dust to our new "home, away from home", and passed many Arabs, the men and women shrouded in flowing white

robes, the eyes alone of the women following us as we passed. So, we made our first camp in North Africa on the 20th February, 1943 and were ready to do our small part in the World War II.

The personnel of our unit sailed across on three different ships, the Brazil, the Uruguay, and the Argentina. We, of the Brazil, nearly collided one night with a tanker but luck was with us. Our sister ship, the Uruguay, was less fortunate and was rammed four days out at sea at 0115 hours in the morning. Over a score of soldiers were killed outright, and fifty injured. Four of our officers and twenty-four nurses on board had a busy time of it setting up an infirmary in the library and tending the casualties, for the sick bay had been demolished in the collision. One patient in the sick bay rolled off his bunk onto the bow of the colliding tanker, where he recovered consciousness later.

Although the hole extended to below the water line it was found possible to bring the defect up by shifting oil to the opposite side and creating a seven degree list. In this condition the ship parted from the convoy accompanied by two destroyers and the tanker—which had the appearance of a scow after her bow was torn off—and plowed slowly back to Bermuda. A short gale two days later almost finished her off as all but the last bulkhead protecting the engine room broke through. Luckily, the storm died down in five or six hours, and the 5000 on board reached land where our own contingent lived like wealthy vacationers in the Engineers Hospital for two weeks before setting off once more for Africa. This time they made it, running two days off of their course to avoid submarine attacks reported taking place on a slow convoy further north, and arrived at Casa towards the end of March.

T/5 ROB SHALLCROSS



Doris Knights
Lt. Col. A.N.C., P.C.N.



Calisthenics
above—Rome area



Eleanor B. Pitman
Major A.N.C.

NURSES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

by Lt. Edna A. Hurd, A.N.C.

Helen J. Coghlan
Capt. A.N.C. O.R.
Supervisor

Mary A. Canning
Capt. A.N.C.
Medical Supervisor

Louise H. Hollister
Capt. A.N.C.
Surgical Supervisor

Elinor C. Stacy
Capt. A.N.C.
Aesthesia





A. E. Adams

Frances Charman

E. Beth Andrews

Blanche Haley

1st Lts.



The big gate clicked with ominous finality. It had clicked its way through the whole alphabet, from weeping Anderson down through the K's, past the P's and on into the W's. And for each it had clicked but once. To us the click of that big gate in South Station, Boston, was symbolic. Civilian life had been shut away cleanly and definitely. We were on the other side of the gate now and there was no returning. Parents, friends and favorite Aunties wept. And because there was no turning back, because ahead of us was the unknown, we, too, wept or clowned or acted nonchalant and bored as our individual natures dictated.

Keeping track of ninety-three girls is not easy at best. Keeping track of ninety-three potential Army nurses, even in the narrow confines of the train is almost impossible. Miss Knights, our chief, counted and recounted; porters and personnel counted. Only nine-two women could be found; someone must have slipped off the train at the last minute. Finally one of the porters solved the problem. He looked at Miss Knights and said, apologetically:

"Mam, have you counted yo'self?"

And so began the Army career of the Sixth General Nurses. Or perhaps it really began two days later when we arrived in Camp Blanding, Florida, 17 May 1942. Some of the unit had already arrived. A group of us from Fort Devens and some from Camp Edwards were getting settled in the "X" quarters. We had had our experiences, too, on that long train ride from "up North." There was a two hour wait in New York City. We who had been in the Army a few months were consciously

and strictly "G.I." They had told us never to let our gas-masks out of sight. We must have been an amazing spectacle as we strode down Fifth Avenue with those gas masks over our shoulders, and the skirts of our civilian dresses fluttering in the breeze!

From Penn Station on, "Fitzie" had tried to get rid of a hat to which she had taken a violent dislike. She left it under the seat everytime she climbed off the train. Always that hat was returned. She even left it in a rest-room, but she hadn't gone ten feet when someone came rushing out and that bonnet was returned. By the time we reached Starke, Fitzie was desperate. A freight train roared past. There was a sudden motion of Fitzie's good right arm and the hat was a flattened bit of straw on the railroad ties.

"There," she smiled with satisfaction, "that did it!"

Our first summer in the Army can never be forgotten nor can it be duplicated. We'll always remember "A-22" and "A-23", the quarters "X", the Officers Club with its beer, liverwurst, and Lieutenants, the coke machines, and "chicken-in-the-rough" at the Roosevelt in Jacksonville.

That summer we learned close-order drill the hard way. In a sand field under the broiling Florida sun we marched, right-faced, left-flanked and to-the-reared. We saluted by the numbers and without the numbers. We "counted in cadence" and we "dressed right." In between times, we heard the Articles of War. Attended command performances and knocked ourselves out doing calisthenics. At the Station Hospital we learned Army routine.

Top to bottom—Ann Pritchard, Elizabeth Rogers, Jessie Brooks Wyman, Ruth Penniman, Marguerite Croft, 1st Lts.



Eunice Rose



Anne E. Tedesco



Bessie McLellan
1st Lts.



Helen Forrant



Gertrude Leggett

We learned to call the ward officers, "Sir," and the corps-men evolved from "Orderly" to Sergeant or Corporal. We ourselves flaunted our gold bars and wondered how many months before we'd be overseas. We soon found out. Our ten-day leaves which had started so happily that September, were suddenly cancelled in December.

It was early morning, 7 February 1943. Kilmer had been two weeks of staging in the cold and snow. This we told ourselves, was a processing for duty in Alaska. We were doubly sure of this as we thought of our bedding-rolls, bulging with "long-johns", mufflers and mittens. Now it was pitch-black outside as the first group marched to the station. The cold penetrated through our musette bags, gas-masks, overcoats, right down to our sun-conditioned bones. That was the morning we entrained for New York and ferried to Staten Island where the convoy waited. Memories of that transition from the earth-bound to the sea-bound are hazy. There was the struggle to carry bulging suitcases. There was the gang-plank, miles long, it seemed. And finally the huge ships which some of us enjoyed for twenty-four hours and hated passionately for a life-time thereafter.

We had come in groups from Camp Kilmer and each group was assigned to a certain ship in that great gray convoy. A group of twenty-six, four of our officers and twenty-two of our A. N. C., had been directed to the U. S. A. T. Uruguay.

It was about 0100 hours, five days out from New York City. Most of us were in our berths; the ship was rolling along steadily in a calm sea. Suddenly there was a shuddering crash. The ship rolled, list-

ed, rolled again. Our first thought was—torpedo. Quickly, but with little confusion, we jumped from our bunks and dressed, fastening our life belts as we made our way up the stairs to our boat-stations. There had come no explosion such as follows a torpedo. Fifteen minutes passed. We were silent, most of us, saying our prayers and wondering how it felt to die of thirst in a life-boat. Silently one by one the gray shapes of the other ships went by. Suddenly a voice from the loud-speaker: "Return to quarters . . . Stand by."

Then the work began. When the tanker rammed our ship, a large number of men were injured, some were swept away by the inrushing sea. The library became a hospital, and our assignment to duty was immediate.





Ruth Lawrence

Anna Creighton

Wilma Day

Mary Casey



Finally morning came. All we saw on the gray expanse of sea was a single destroyer, escorting us back to some unknown port. Our ship was listing, a gaping hole in her side. We saw our bedding-rolls and foot lockers being swept out by the relentless waves. A contingent of Sea-Bees were making temporary repairs and we prayed that those repairs would enable us to reach Port.

On our fourth morning we stood on deck,

weary and sick from the storm of the previous night. Suddenly someone shouted, "Land" . . . and there in the distance were the gently, rolling hills of Bermuda. That night we slept on a solid bed in a quiet room in the Engineers Hospital at St. George's. Followed two weeks of relaxation and fun on this lovely and hospitable island, the only shadow being that soon we must again be on the sea.

And inevitably that day came. We



Top to bottom—
Virginia Wyman
Christine
MacKinon
Virginia Sears
Ethel Slattery
Marion Smith



Off for a Picnic at Ain-Diab .
"Lycee Lyautry"—1st home in Casa





Those who quieted the disturbed at Parker

Top to bottom—
Geraldine Brandon
Annette Eveleth
Dorothy Ayer Guthrie



reached Casablanca and disembarked from the "Santa Rosa" on March 18, about a month after the rest of the unit.

The hospital set-up at Casablanca was an ideal one. A "School for Young Girls" had been appropriated for the use of the 6th General. Now at last we were on our own, and it was good. Wards took shape and were soon running smoothly. Our census during those first months soared to the point where we expanded into the "Moroccan" building.

For about six weeks we nurses lived at the "Lycee Lyautry", a school about ten minutes from the hospital. Our first dance on foreign duty was held in the gymnasium of the Lycee. An apartment house was being completed near the hospital. It was a five story affair, complete with penthouse and it was theoretically a fine modern place. Were it not for the temperamental pump and the explosive hot water heaters, it would compare favorably with an up-to-date tenement at home. For weeks after we moved in, workers continued to build the house around us. Night nurses became so conditioned to the sound of hammering, sawing and loud French voices that nights after they had completed their night shift, the quiet kept them awake.

Social life was keen during those first months at Casa. We dated and danced at the Automobile Club. We dined at La Reserve. We played tennis and wined at the Shell Club. We picniced and golfed on 5-day leaves in Fedala. We saw the Sultan's gardens, the Pasha's palace, and we bought innumerable and impossible souvenirs.



Nurses strutting their "stuff" in Casa Armistice Day—November 11th, 1943



Madden on duty

Nurses quarters in Casa





Dorothy Moles

Gladys Raymond

Helen Fitzgerald

Irma Simeneau



We even had a number of weddings. Helen Beer (called "Pretzel," because it goes so good with Beer) married Lt. Vanier in that lovely little chapel near the hospital. "Pret" was one of our physio therapists. We missed her when she went home to have "Peter." Louise Emerson was married in the Episcopal Church in Casa. Capt. (now Major) Davenport married "Pat" Baker, of our Red Cross group. Evelyn Mahaney, another A. N. C., was married in the Chapel of Camp Don B. Passage.

Promotions came through while we were in Casablanca. Miss Knights, our chief, became a Captain and later Major. Our assistant chiefs were promoted to 1st. "Looeys" and then to Captains. Groups of "shave-tails" turned in their gold bars for silver ones and our unit, we felt, was really becoming organized.

All through the summer of 1943 we were busy as a hospital. Caring for battle casualties was for us a new experience. We felt that we were playing a truly important part in the winning of the war. Gradually,

Group in Courtyard, Casa.



*Top to bottom—
Hattie Miller
Helen Beer Vanier
Eleanor Rich
Eunice Camache
Marion Miller*



Cynthia Holt

Mary Fraser

Loretta Brassard

Priscilla Chandler





Florence Annese

Margaret Coney

Jane Flanigan

Rita O'Leary



*Gibbie makes friends
with native at Cascade*

Lyons and Casey

*Miss Adams,
Beers in P.T. room*

Our girls learn fast



Anna Tinkham

Katherine Barrett

Celestine Pratt

Helen Hewitt



however, the work became less and less vital as the census became lower until, as the Front jumped the Mediterranean and went headlong into Italy, our chief function was that of a Station Hospital.

We knew we were not destined for many more months in Casablanca. Most of the outfits had "moved up". The Navy was scarce compared to our hey-dey in Casa . . . even the moon was not as bright and beautiful as it had seemed during those first few months in North Africa.

Top to bottom—
Lillian Hunt
Evelyn Grose
Christine Behr
Helen Shaw
Eleanor Crafts





Dorothy Nicherson

Evelyn King

Rita Boyle

Eunice Plant



Fiji Islanders or a hairwash?

Our letter of assignment reads: "Departed Casablanca, French Morocco, by rail 16 May, 1944. Arrived Oran, Algeria, 18 May 1944."

Somehow, no one knows how it started, the rumor had been passed around that we were to stage in beautiful villas beside the Mediterranean. When the trucks carrying us from the station in Oran drew up at the Ain-El-Turck staging area we laughed:



"Chow hounds"

"This isn't where we go! We're supposed to be in villas."

"Pull up to that first row of tents, driver," the Lt. said imperturbably.

And there we were for two weeks, victims of sand, heat, showers and circumstances. We were initiated into the mysteries of a public private-life. We explored the sea-shore and we haunted "Murphy's."

Leaving the Casa apartment



*Top to bottom—
Barbara Maxwell
Mary Wilson
Harriet Johnsen
Catherine Lyons
Lillian Harrod*



Marguerite Cronin

Vivian Nesgoda

Flora Brown

Tekla Quigley



Transportation in Casa



Relaxing after a game of golf; Fedela

We spent much time adjusting tent-ropes—and our dispositions—to the whims of the weather. Memorial Day came and went and B. Maxwell patriotically set out geraniums in front of her tent. Many were the lessons learned in those two short weeks. We learned how to wash clothes in a helmet, how to eliminate locusts and how to file away self-consciousness for the duration.

The Seminole, taking us from Oran to Naples was a hospital ship as conspicuous

on the blue Mediterranean as a gold fish in a crystal bowl. The trip, however, was without incident. We gazed at Capri as we passed it in the early morning and wondered if it were as romantic as we had heard. Mt. Vesuvius was a thrilling sight as we came into the Bay of Naples. We were reminded of its age-old history as we saw its scarred grandeur overlooking the city and the sea.

As we disembarked we were assigned to

*A hot breakfast after an all night trip from Casa,
At Fez.F.M. May 17-44*



*Top to bottom—
Edna Hurd
Caroline Eaton
B. E. Peterson
Marjorie May
Ruby St. Clair*





Aurora Lemmo

Frances Purcell

Grace Babcock

Rita Frank



Top to bottom—
Helen Miller
Anne Sunbery
Laurianne Beaudette Graham
Mary Harris
Anna Moore



various hospitals in and around Naples for a period of Detached Service. Those two weeks were busy ones, both on duty and off duty. Most of us were able, by dint of hitch-hiking, to get to Pompeii and to see first-hand the excavations of an ancient civilization.

But it was Rome we really wanted to see and we kept our fingers crossed, hop-



*Home is where you hang your hat
in Ain-el-Turck*

ing our orders were for that city.

"Another boat? That's all! Where're the seasick pills?" That L. C. I. was like the hammock on the back porch at home, only the hammock never did rock from east to west at the same time—it swung from north to south. Many of us knocked ourselves out with nembutal, either liquid or capsules, and slept our way from Naples to Anzio.

Anzio—our first real look at the utter devastation of warfare. As we went by truck convoy through the outskirts of the town and into the highway we realized the terrible desolation left in the wake of war. Beside the road, outlying farms were ghost-buildings gazing down amply at the rubble about them. Here and there were overturned tanks, blackened and gutted by fire, mute evidence of the mile by mile struggle along the road to Rome.

There beside us flowed the Tiber and there not far distant was the dome of St. Peter's cathedral. Seven miles outside of the city we turned in at a driveway leading to the strangest building we had ever seen. It was a heavy brick monstrosity, visible for miles around, its turrets, steeples and spires pointing like so many accusing fin-





Alice Corcoran



Hazel MacNeill



Jeannette McDonald



Phyllis Madden



Top to bottom—

Christine Tobin

Doris Murphy

Mary Kennedy

Evelyn Mahaney Martin

Jean Fairs



The final touch of home

gers at the blue Italian sky. We learned that this place was called "Buon Pastore," Orphanage of the Good Shepherd.

We have only to think of our arrival that day to feel a slight wave of nausea. There was the smell of filth and the stench of death about the place that clung to our nostrils for weeks. The Germans only a short time before had used this very building as a hospital. Evacuating hastily, they had left many supplies and a few cadavers.

We had arrived on the 20th of June. In

less than two weeks we were receiving patients almost as fast as we could make up beds. We expanded into corridors and alcoves; nearly every porch was used for our overflow of patients. Those first few months were not easy ones. The front was not far distant and we saw the price the "G. I.'s" had to pay for every victory.

The operating room was running full steam ahead in those first months. We had been busy in Casa, but the cases there had had previous attention in general hospitals

*Loading for hospital ship,
Naples*



Boarding L.C.I. at Naples





Chow in Roman Fields

Gas Mask Test—Rome



before reaching us. In Rome the casualties were flown to us, most of them direct from field and evacuation hospitals. The O. R. nurses worked a long ten to twelve hour day. As many as 129 cases a day were completed, and for the month of July the grand total of cases reached a peak 1538. Captain Coghlan and her scrub-nurses and anesthetists did a tough job well, back there in those hot summer days in Rome.

In Rome we were able to divide our hospital easily into a medical wing and a surgical wing. The A. N. C. were responsible to the medical or surgical supervisors, A. N. C. Capt. Canning supervised the medical wards, and Lt. (later Captain) Hollister had charge of the nurses on surgical wards. Capt. Pitman assisted Maj. Knights in the C. N. O.

The Physiotherapy Department of the Sixth General knew its busiest days there in Rome. During the month of November, the Department hit its highest record with the number of appointments as 4831, and the number of treatments totaling 9831. No replacement had come for Lt. Beer who had left us in Casa. That meant long hours of hard work for the two physio's who were left. Lt. Chandler, head of the department, and Lt. Adams, her assistant, worked for weeks with little or no off-duty time.

The P. T. Department has improved consistently. Back in North Africa, there was one small room with only six tables, limited appliances for exercise, and untold difficulties with hot water and electricity. In Rome the space allotted to the Department was gratifyingly larger with eleven tables and a separate room for hydrotherapy. In Bologna there were two separate rooms, one for treatment and the other for exercise. More equipment was made for this room, so that patients might be treated more quickly and more thoroughly.

In Bologna the P. T.'s most interesting work was with poliomyelitis patients. Lt. Adams' one responsibility was the treatment of these cases. She used the famed Sister Kenny method and has already seen the results of her careful work. The "physio" has grown during these two years, until now it compares favorably with any Department in the States.

Life in the raw, it is said, is seldom mild. There was never a mild moment back there in Rome. We lived in tents. During the day the heat was unbearable; at night it was cold. In the summer bees, ants and mosquitoes became chummy with us; as the weather became cooler, mice played around our bedding rolls and cavorted on our tables.

"Camping!", we thought disgustedly,



Settling

"Camping! And to think I was a Campfire Girl once!"

Rome offered much in the line of education, entertainment and cultural advantages. We attended the opera, many of us for the first time. There were ballet performances and symphony concerts in the beautiful Royal Opera House. The Lily Pons concert was an "out-of-this-world" experience and we were thrilled by Katherine Cornell's acting in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."

When we used to read in High School Latin the history of Caesar's Gallic wars and the impassioned speeches of Cicero, we little realized that one day we'd be walking down the Appian way, looking at the Tiber, gaping open-mouthed as any tourist at the pillars of the old Tribunal and the mighty stones of the Colliseum.

We had our lighter moments in Rome, too. Tivoli, a town not far from Rome, was a resort-spot and ideal for picnicing. Every week a group of us went to the Lido di Roma, a fine beach in spite of barbed wire entanglements. During the summer there were many troops stationed in and around Rome, and to us that meant "dates." There were frequent dances, always a new U.S.O. show or movie, and there were assorted night clubs.

Five-day leaves were granted in Rome with orders for Capri, Sorrento or the Atlantico hotel in town. Most of the nurses went to Capri. They saw no "old walnut tree" as the song goes, but they saw "multo" Air Corps. The A.C. had a Rest (so-called) Hotel on the island and were eager-beavers when it came to entertain the A.N.C.

It was during our seven months in Rome that Irene Willis was married to Capt. Murray in historic old St. Peter's, on Christmas Day.

And speaking of St. Peter's, most of us were able at one time or another to be included in the public audiences held by Pope Pius XII. Soldiers of many nationalities and many creeds attended these audiences and stood silently together as this wise, peace-loving man spoke in terms of blessing and peace.

Leaves, the thirty-day variety, and "rota-



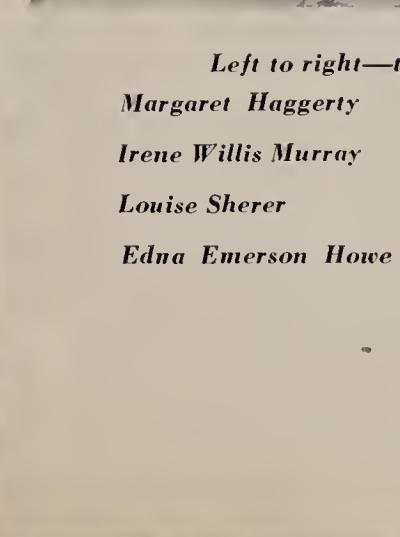
Sitting Pretty



Julia Binns Cady



Pat Johnson



Left to right—top to bottom—

Margaret Haggerty

Irene Willis Murray

Louise Sherer

Edna Emerson Howe

Chloe Wilcox

Florence Giberti

Elizabeth Charleston

Margaret Emery



Top to bottom—
Thelma Cogswell
Sarah Gallagher
Pauline Newcomb

tion" had begun while we were in Rome. A number of nurses went to the States each month. The reactions of these fortunate individuals was amusing and enlightening to the rest of us.

"No butter. Can't get any meat—not even a steak!"

We decided the war was rougher in the States than over here.

The Christmas of 1944 was our third one in the Army and our second one overseas. We expected soon to be on the move again, the Buon Pastore being taken over by a station hospital. Christmas parties and New Year's parties hit an all-time high that season, for our wards were closed and we were relieved of duty.

Soon after New Year's orders began coming in, sending us to various hospitals on Detached Service, for how long, no one knew. The places of assignment sounded like a train schedule—Naples, Rome, Grossetta, Leghorn, Florence and points north. The "points north" included Field Hospitals and Surgical Teams working up under the Apennines where troops had dug in, for the winter.

While we were on D. S. "Dottie" Ayer was married in Leghorn to Lt. Guthrie at a villa used by the officers of "Charlie's" outfit. Chaplain Arnold, formerly attached to the Sixth General, performed the ceremony.

It was while we were on D. S., too, that "Judy" Binns was married to Mr. Cady while on thirty-day leave in the States.

For about four months we were on D. S. On the sixth of May came the order to proceed by truck to Florence where we would stage at the Hotel Minerva for a short time. The time was indeed short for the very next day we set out in truck convoy for Bologna, following a group which had left the previous afternoon. It was a long trip up over those Apennines. The scenery was breath-taking and so were the roads, twisting up the sides of mountains, curving hair-raisingly down the other side.

A trip to Venice



"And this," we thought, "is where our G. I.'s had to fight . . . Lord!"

Bologna, we had read, is the seat of education in Italy. And the seat of education became the temporary seat of the Sixth General. Our set-up was the School of Engineering, part of Bologna University, situated a few minutes outside of the city in a residential district. The building was modern and easily converted into wards, offices, clinics and operating-rooms. The chemical laboratory, separate from the main building, became living quarters for the nurses. The mess hall and officers' club were also in the "laboratory."

In Bologna our work was almost entirely with German prisoners. This presented a problem in mental adjustment which we had never before had to face. In compliance with the Geneva Conference and our own ideals of nursing we have given prisoners reasonable care and consideration. To do this and not think of Buchenwald, to think of Buchenwald and still treat these men as human beings has been no easy task. We feel that we took this work in stride; we feel, too, that within us there is not the capacity for cruel cold-blooded treatment. For that we are grateful.

In Bologna promotions came through in ever-increasing numbers. Maj. Knights became a Lieutenant-Colonel, Capt. Pitman a Major, and Lt. Stacy our newest Captain.

As summer approaches, rumors are high that soon we'll be on the seas again for that return trip to the States. We have been very fortunate, there have been no casualties among the nurses, no serious illnesses and no courts-martial. Thirty-nine nurses have left the unit, but many of these have been replaced. We feel that our job over here is finished. Some wish to carry on in C.B.I., others have signed for the Army of Occupation but most of us will be happy to see once more the hills of home, the fields of Maine, the lights of Broadway and the life of old Beacon Hill.

Recuperating at Venice





Col. William C. Knott, M.C.
Former Executive Officer



Lt. Col. Thomas S. Hamilton, M.C.
Executive Officer

H E A D Q U A R T E R S

"Hospital headquarters functions as a co-ordinating center for all unit activities. It formulates command and administrative policies and acts as a channel through which are administered all orders, policies and directives, applicable to the unit, which emanate from higher headquarters. It is in administrative charge of the Adjutant." The above quotation from the hospital Standing Operating Procedure sums up in a few words the function of headquarters. Headquarters, which is more or less the office of the Commanding Officer, is the clearing house for all instructions from higher headquarters down to members of the unit and for all reports from unit services and departments to higher headquarters. It handles, in addition, matters pertaining to personnel of the command.

Upon activation of the 6th General Hospital, headquarters consisted of Captain Thomas S. Hamilton as adjutant, S/Sgt. James A. Shackelford as sergeant-major, S/Sgt. Theodore Last as personnel sergeant-major, and Michael Halowka, Joseph M. DiFulvio, Robert Condon and

Douglas Campbell, among others. Later added members were Ray O. Warner and Richard G. Gick. Of these men Theodore Last and Douglas Campbell were graduated from Officer Candidate School, and James Shackelford, Richard Gick and Michael Halowka received direct commissions overseas. On V-E Day headquarters consisted of Captain Karl R. Ottesen, adjutant, 2nd Lt. William R. Mathews, personnel officer, M/Sgt. Ray O. Warner, sergeant-major and S/Sgts. Davidson and DiFulvio. Sgt. Riffle, Tecs/4 Dunphy, Proudfoot and Voci, Tecs/5 Phillips and Royfield and Pfc. Burris and Mann. Captain Hamilton remained as adjutant until August 1943, at which time he became executive officer. Lts. George J. Martin, Rudolph A. Jarvey, James E. Jones and Karl R. Ottesen were personnel officers in succession. Upon arrival of the unit at its overseas station Lt. Ottesen was made Commanding Officer, Detachment of Patients, a position which he held until August 1943, when he succeeded Capt. Hamilton as adjutant.



Office of Headquarters in Bologna

*Col. Goethals Speaking
on Hospital Day—1943*



Lts. Morris Rapaport and William R. Mathews served as personnel officers, the latter holding the position on V-E Day.

Hospital headquarters was organized in 1942 to perform the functions necessary for a unit in training. Men were trained in the handling of matters pertaining to Army administration and in the preparations of the multitudinous reports and returns. Effort was also made, in the training, to anticipate problems to be encountered overseas; we were only partially successful in this endeavor.

Upon arrival overseas it became necessary to set up a Detachment of Patients with personnel obtained from headquarters. The unit personnel problems were temporarily at a low ebb, as insurance and allotments had been brought up to date prior to embarkation, making this shift of men possible. Reports, correspondence, and General and Special Orders, however, increased a hundred-fold. In addition, personnel, under Sgts. Marcus Rosenfeld, were furnished for the telephone switchboard and information desk and under Tecs/5 George Bulman and Gene Sheets for the postoffice. When, in the summer of 1943, Army Postal Unit No. 764 was assigned to the 6th General Hospital, Corporals Bulman and Sheets worked with that unit.



**Capt. Karl R. Ottesen, M.A.C.
Adjutant**



Armistice Day in Casablanca

In September of 1943 M/Sgt. James A. Shackelford was commissioned 2nd Lt. MAC and went, by a rather devious route, to work under Lt. Col. William C. Knott, MC, our executive officer who had left the month before to command the 26th Station Hospital at Algiers.

During the 16 months the hospital was at Casablanca the work performed was characterized by periods of activity both regular and irregular. The regular active periods came in the first ten days of each

month when the majority of reports were due; the irregular periods came at times when patients were evacuated to the United States. When the ships came into port, and we were called upon to evacuate sometimes as many as 700 patients in a day, everyone worked. Preparation of passenger lists, orders and service records was a task entered into jointly by the registrar, detachment of patients and headquarters personnel.

When, in May and June 1944, the hos-

**2nd. Lt.
William R. Mathews, M.A.C.
Personnel Officer**

**2nd. Lt.
W. A. Stewart, M.A.C.**

**2nd. Lt.
Joseph B. L. Yargeau, C.W.O.
Administrative Assistant**

**2nd. Lt.
William J. Cunningham,
M.A.C.**





Evacuation of our wounded from Planes in Rome

pital moved to Rome these evacuations were more evenly spaced and smaller, so that this phase of activity was not so burdensome. This was true of Bologna as well, but as the war progressed reports increased so that the total work to be done became no less.

It was at Rome in February 1945 that M/Sgts. Richard G. Gick of headquarters and Michael J. Halowka of the detachment of patients, T/Sgt. Harry E. Munro of the surgical service and Sgt. Allen M. Boyes of the detachment were commissioned 2nd Lts. MAC. T/Sgt. Ray O. Warner, who had so ably handled the pay section, became sergeant-major. Tecs/4 Scott and

Voci and Tec/5 Phillips carried on in the pay section.

Redeployment, occurring between V-E and V-J Days, saw almost all the personnel transferred, and by 15 September 1945 none were left.

A word in passing should be given to the athletic endeavors of the men in headquarters. Represented in every sport, they played hard and well. Seldom well enough to win, if my memory serves me rightly, but always in the money. The game-saving home runs from the bat of "Frank Merriwell" Covett will probably be a legend in Brockton, Massachusetts by the time this volume goes to press.

Patients waiting to be admitted to Hospital





Lt. Col. W. T. S. Thorndike, M.C.



Capt. J. E. Jones, M.A.C.

R E G I S T R A R

Although the personnel of the Registrar's Office fully recognized that they were "type-writer commandos", little did they realize what they were in for on that eventful day in Casablanca when the Registrar's Office was officially opened for business in the main lobby (and what a lobby, even had a fountain that really worked) of the South building. It has been said that great events forecast their shadows but how was one to know that the total admissions of one patient on the opening day was really a "white lie".

The SOP states that "the Registrar will maintain an office for the filing, maintaining and processing of all medical and surgical records and indices for preparation and rendition of all statistical tables and charts and for the maintenance and dispatch of all sick and wounded reports". It may well have been added "with the greatest of celerity". The position of the office in fulfilling its duties may well be compared to that of a "dry smoker" since it was the responsibility of the office to keep the records of all patients and yet patients were people with whom the office's personnel had no direct contact. To meet the obligations of the SOP, the office soon concocted intricate and puzzling forms and procedures which had officers, nurses and enlisted personnel alike soon wishing that they had been born quiz kids. It was not too long before anyone from the Registrar's Office upon entering a ward, was greeted with "you're from the

Registrar's Office, aren't you?" or "what's wrong now?" or "is it the 15th of the month already?" Because of the personnel's persistency, they were sometimes told that they had a "supercilious attitude" or perhaps "don't they know that we are running a hospital" and worst of all "another crazy idea from the Registrar's Office". Yet in spite of it all, no one was injured or killed and friendships became more firmly cemented. Some were even so brazen as to intimate that the office had taken over complete charge of the civilian secretary working there.

And so records were collected and maintained. Evacuations came and went in spite of everyone's wondering why so and so did not go or why it wasn't possible to scratch Smith and substitute Hardy five minutes before a ship was to be loaded. It is with pride that this office reflects on some of the following facts: the handling of the medical records of about 29,000 admissions; the turning over of some 800 patients in one day; the getting out of its reports on time, even though people were pestered to death; having the best Xmas tree in Rome (ask the Adjutant); having two of the best bosses in the hospital in Major Thorndike and Capt. Jones; and forming a softball team that beat the great headquarters team (for matters of record we are willing to forget the volley ball game). But little or no pride exists for getting into everyone's hair.

RECEIVING AND DISPOSITION

The R. & D. Office got off to a humble start in the front hall of the former College des Jeunes Filles at Casablanca, French Morocco on the 27th of February 1943. A sudden influx of patients, filling the hall with persons and baggage, soon necessitated a change in quarters, and a few days later we moved to the rear of the same building into a small room just inside of the gate. Within a few weeks crowded quarters again necessitated a change, and this move took us to our permanent Casablanca "home"—a separate wooden building, formerly a classroom, located in the central courtyard of the Hospital.

Having learned the theoretical functions of an R. & D. Office in classes at Camp Blanding, Florida and having applied that knowledge by working at the Camp Blanding Station Hospital, we had a fundamental background for our future work. Yet we soon found out that there is a lot of difference between classroom knowledge or working at another hospital and setting up and operating your own office. We had to learn by experience—the hard way—and systems were inaugurated and changed many times as we slowly got settled in the "groove". But our fifteen months stay at Casablanca made us well-seasoned veterans of R. & D. work as we admitted and discharged slightly over 18,000 patients in that time.

Records cannot show the so many and so varied experiences we underwent in Casablanca, nor can they be told in a brief history, but we ourselves will always remember them. A few things that come back in retrospect for example are the first case of that new and strange malady "too much Vin Rouge" which had the O.D.'s completely baffled even to the point of suggesting an operation; the Merchant Marine who started counting torpedoes while waiting to be admitted and then suddenly went screaming out of the office; and the night a "blown top" resulted in an underwear clad soldier barricading himself in the Post Office and with gun and bayonet holding off for two hours a hundred pursuers. The nights when twelve typewriters going all at once typing up admissions from hospital trains turned the office into a veritable newspaper Press Room also stand out in our memory, as well as the million and one various emergency cases ranging from torpedoed ships' personnel down through the routine traffic ac-

ident cases to victims of Arab stabbings and beatings. Even the long and tiresome trips to meet hospital trains at Fez and the work of processing patients' records while returning on the trains had their bright and amusing episodes which are so well remembered.

Closing our Casablanca office on the 14th of May 1944, we shortly thereafter proceeded to Italy and set up in the unique "castle", Buon Pastore, on the outskirts of Rome on the heels of the retreating Germans. Opening day, the 30th of June, got us right back to work again with a BANG as we took in over 200 patients and slid back in the groove once more. The following month found us busier than we had ever been before with 3000 admissions. Fourteen or sixteen hour work days were common that July. Business did let up, however, as soon as the hospital was filled and, with the exception of one day when we admitted 167 of our own command for food poisoning, we coasted along quietly and routinely for the next five months. We drew the double line in our Register signifying close of station the 22nd of December after adding another eight thousand odd to our grand total, and settled back to wait for "What's next?"

"What's next?" turned out to be Bologna, Italy, again on the heels of the Jerries, and on the 9th of May, 1945 we opened up our office for the last time in the Regia Scuola d'Ingegneria on the edge of town. The majority of our patients at first were German POW's, and additional headaches were acquired as we set about establishing new systems for processing them. It was a familiar sight to see bed screens and clouds of dusting powder in the front hall those days as incoming Germans were stripped and deloused before going to the wards. Gradually we turned international as along with increased numbers of G.I.'s we began receiving British, Russians, French, Italians, Polish, Czechs, and Yugoslavians, taxing our vocabularies to the utmost. We took anything and everything that came our way, and business was good enough to run our register up another twenty-seven hundred. When at last the time came to close up once again, the door was slammed shut behind the 28,988th patient on the 21st of July. Throw away the key?—with pleasure!!

G. W. Giebel.



Registrar's Office in Bologna

DETACHMENT OF PATIENTS

The detachment of patients, coming to both headquarters and registrar, came into being as a separate entity overseas. It had been planned originally that this department was to be a subsidiary of the registrar's office. When station was opened at Casablanca it was soon discovered that the work entailed in the handling of patients' records was so extensive as to require a separate and nearly autonomous department. Since the office of the registrar was extremely busy and that of headquarters not too occupied, Lt. Karl R. Ottesen, personnel officer, was made commanding officer, detachment of patients and M/Sgt. Michael J. Holowka, personnel sergeant major, the non-commissioned officer in charge. S/Sgt. Harry Kester and Tec/4 Edwin Maue made up the nucleus of the department.

The detachment of patients handled all personnel matters pertaining to patients, and as such, was the patients' headquarters. Service records, pay allotments, insurance, and finally the paper-work pertaining to transfer upon discharge were handled for all long-term patients by this department. Thus the detachment of patients occupied a unique position in the hospital set-up. It dealt with only a part of the patient population, essentially those to be hospitalized for more than thirty days. It resembled a headquarters personnel of-

fice in its function, yet the fact that it cared for patients allied it even more closely to the office of the registrar. Since its personnel were drawn largely from headquarters, and since it occupied the same room as headquarters while in Casablanca, the detachment of patients was, perhaps, a little more closely allied to that department.

The work of the detachment of patients was done in part by patients themselves who volunteered their services. Without them the department could never have functioned as efficiently as it did.

During most of 1943 the handling of records of hospital patients followed no fixed procedure; it was not until 1944 that a final and thoroughly efficient system was set up by higher headquarters. The suggestions of the members of the detachment of patients, were on several occasions passed on to headquarters, NATOUSA. It is a source of pride to note that many of these suggestions were later incorporated into theater directives.

During its two and a half years of operations the detachment of patients handled thousands of service records and allied papers, and paid thousands of soldiers hundreds of thousands of dollars. A young and aggressive department in the hospital, it contributed more than its share toward the success of the mission of the 6th General Hospital.

*T/5 Bob C. Schaller
Displaying posters to Advertise
"Mad Caps" Home Talent Show*



Receiving Patients in Bologna



THE MEDICAL SERVICE

D up tent
oem
with no
unches
uled

BY REQUEST

*Said a boy to his dad,
No intent to be bad,
Just trying to keep en rapport,
"It may all sound trite,
But I'm dying to fight,
What did you do in all this great war."*

*Said the dad to the boy,
His pride and his joy,
"We never had cause to get nervice,
But at General Six
We pulled all the tricks
That are known to a medical service.*

*"We started out swell,
Just like bats out o' Hell,
Till we hit the big sand lot at Blanding:
There your old man soured,
As Rank towered and glowered,
In a manner past all understanding.*

*"Then the durned S.G.O.
Dealt a helluva blow
That knocked us right down to the cellar,
For with scarcely a pause
They jerked Thorp, Whiting, Dawes,
Thomas, Chafee, Clark, Graham, and Zellar.*

*"The infallible rule
Was hikes, drilling, and school,
And professional work went to pot:
We worked without glee
On the damned S.O.P.:
And a longed for white Christmas was not.*

*"But at Kilmer it snowed:
Then the ocean we rode:
And we landed at old Casablanca.
Patients came in to board:
We were bored by their boards:
But they boarded the ships by the plank.*

*"But it soon became clear
We had nothing to fear;
Grand E.M.'s shared all of our cares:
They stood by the Doc
In the building Moroqne;
And they littered the food up the stairs.*

*"And the nurses—God bless 'em—
The best of the breed—
Always helped the much blamed, poor
Ward Officer:
They signed all his papers—
They sensed every need—
'May I get you a cup of hot coffee, Sir.'*

*"So the ulcers and asthmas,
Arthritis and such, R.F.'s and T.B.'s
Passed in line:
While up in the Parker House,
Drayer helped Dutch,
And Mo Parker had breakfast at nine.*

*"But the call of the wild
Came to Drayer and Dutch,
Deep voiced Dannie and old Jimmie T.,
So we started for Rome
Much in need of a crutch,
And we D.S.ed awhile by the sea.*

*"Then 'twas Rome
In a home of the foul supermen:
Our men shovelled and scrubbed till it
shone:
Then planes started to shunt
From the real fighting front,
And the surgeons were worked to the bone.*

*"Then into the breech
Strode our men, brave and such;
Eyes straight ahead; jaws firmly set;
And they sewed up the wounds
That Claude dasn't to touch,
Or that Otto had thought a bad bet.
(Thank God for the Medical Service!)*

*"And then when the salad
Was full of staph. tox.,
And men threw up their stomachs, and even
their sox,
Who staid on the wards till all hours of the
clox,
And patted their bellies, and cooled off
their blos?
(You're right 'twas the Medical Service.)*

*"But a touch of the sadness
Seemed always in store,
And higher authority robbed us once more:
This time 'twas Red Burrage and bridge
loving Mo
Who were missed
When the master was called on the Po.*

“But McGowan and Messinger, Fiegel and
Meitzen, and bold Korostoff
Were batting four hundred—
Once more we were off
To treat the Bolognians, the Krauts, and
the Poles—
But Lowery and Marlow were missed from
the rolls—
(What's next for the Medical Service?)

“But Freddie was ready
And all over smiles,
For the Krauts had a sickness he'd proved
to be Weil's,
And it's more fun to treat than American
piles.
(Hurrah! for the Medical Service!)

“And down in the office
The typewriters click
Tearing off monographs, learned and thick:
There's Jim on the Stomach, and Ed on the
Heart,
And there's Charlie on Joints, while Fred
takes the part
Of the Liver and Spleen,
And the chief shares the Lungs with a man
named McKean,
And though Ted writes on skin, he's been
interested in—
No flies on the Medical Service.

“But while we are patting ourselves on the
back,
There are others whose spines should be
getting a whack,

They are housed in the basement, or even a
shack,
Or in a front office, or even a back,
But without their foundation
The whole thing would crack:—
Its supplies and utilities—'lectricians
abilities—
Fowler's abilities—Bowman's civilities—
Bonesie's facilities—Carl's effective docili-
ties—
What an invaluable pack!

“And now as once more
We are closing the door,
And what's left of us have to keep happy,
Good eggs come again
By truck and by plane,
And they'll help to keep everything snappy.

“And how can we fail,
With one foot on the rail,
To have music, and culture, and sport,
With the brains of a Kranes,
And the hand of a Bland,
And the steady support of a Short.
(All hail to the Medical Service.)

“But—Son—there's one thing to say,
Both by night and by day,
In sunshine, in snow, or in rain,
If we freeze or we fry, or we're wet, or
we're dry—
'Just DON'T let THIS happen again'.”

COL. KING

Col. Horatio Rogers, M.C.
Chief of Surgical Service



Col. Donald S. King, M.C.
Chief of Medical Service





Orthopedic Ward in Bologna, Patients—German Prisoners

PHARMACY

The officers and nurses and personnel of the 6th General Hospital express their appreciation for the cooperation extended by this department.

Working many months, twenty-four hours supplying the demands of our unit was no small task.

Much credit is given to Henry Cramer, John Laue and Harold Propst, assisted by Joe Madid and Ed Perris, for the smooth operation of this department.

Operating Room in Bologna



ACTIVITIES OF THE SURGICAL SERVICE

by

COL. HORATIO ROGERS, M.C.

Organization and training both have to start, but neither can ever end. For the officers, professional training started at medical school; for the men, at civilian hospitals or Medical Department Technical Training Centers scattered over the country. One of the objects of the War Department in establishing affiliated units was to start such units with well-trained professional staffs whose members had worked together in civilian hospitals. At the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston the organization of the Surgical Service began in the spring of 1940.

BOSTON

By the end of September 1940 sixteen surgeons had been chosen, and their names had been approved by the hospital authorities and the Unit Director. They were recommended to the War Department for commission in the following grades: Lt. Col. H. Rogers; Majors Bartlett, Faxon, Taylor; Captains Gundersen, Kelley, Parsons, Pratt, Sturgis, Welch; 1st Lts. Aufranc, Frazee, Hamlin, Simmons, O. S. Staples, and Ulfelder. A year later, on October 31, 1941, all T/O vacancies had been filled as follows:

Lt. Col. H. Rogers, Chief of Service.
Maj. G. W. Taylor, Assistant Chief of Service.
Maj. H. H. Faxon, Chief of Orthopedic Section.
Maj. S. B. Kelley, Chief of Urologic Section.
Maj. T. Gundersen, Chief of EENT Section.
Maj. M. K. Bartlett, Chief of Septic Surgery Section.
Maj. L. Parsons, Chief of General Surgery Section.
Capt. C. E. Welch, Ward Officer General Surgery.
Capt. G. L. Sullivan, Ward Officer Ophthalmology.
Capt. J. R. Frazee, Ward Officer Otolaryngology.
Dr. H. Heyl, Ward Officer Neurosurgery.
Capt. H. Ulfelder, Ward Officer Thoracoplastics Surgery.
Capt. S. H. Sturgis, Ward Officer Maxillo-facial Surgery.
Capt. O. E. Aufranc, Ward Officer Orthopedic Surgery.
Capt. O. S. Staples, Ward Officer Orthopedic Surgery.
Capt. H. I. Suby, Ward Officer Urology.

Capt. S. P. Sarris, Ward Officer Anesthetist.

1st Lt. E. L. Cantlon, Assistant Ward Officer.

1st Lt. K. B. Lawrence, Assistant Ward Officer.

1st Lt. C. E. McGahey, Assistant Ward Officer.

1st Lt. J. B. McKittrick, Assistant Ward Officer.

The professional training of the officers was chiefly carried forward by voluntary attendance at courses on war surgery and by reading. Maj. Welch studied the technique of brain surgery with Dr. W. J. Mixter, and Capt. Sarris studied anesthesia with Dr. H. K. Beecher. Lts. Cantlon and McGahey studied thoracic surgery with Dr. E. D. Churchill.

As could easily be foreseen, it was not professional but administrative training which would present difficulties. Army paperwork, regulations, and the details of running a military hospital were not only unknown but unsuspected to most of the staff. With this in view Lt. Col. Rogers requested the War Department to place him on Extended Active Duty, and on 3 November 1942 he reported to the Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S. C., as Chief of the Surgical Service for a period of one year or until activation of the 6th General Hospital. The practical experience thus gained was not long in proving its value since it enabled Maj. Taylor in Boston to start a list of surgical instruments while they still could be bought to supplement those provided by the Army Medical Supply Catalog. They were paid for by a fund generously subscribed by friends of the 6th General Hospital, and have been an important factor in the fine record since made by the service. The

organization and training of the other elements which later combined to form the Surgical Service are described in another chapter. On May 15, 1942 a new phase began at Camp Blanding, Florida.

BLANDING

The professional officers now faced a triple problem. First, they must learn their own military duties. Second, they must carry on the technical training of the enlisted men. Third, they must become acquainted with the aptitudes and qualifications of each man with a view to the wisest selection of each for the right job. During this phase it was impossible to separate training from organization. The officers met every morning for concentrated study of administration and related subjects. Each afternoon they worked in groups to prepare six 12 hour advanced courses for the enlisted men in the following subjects: Operating Room Technique; Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat; General Surgery; Septic Surgery; Orthopedic Surgery, and Urology.

The officers groups were arranged so that each officer would be teaching the subjects in which he was best qualified. The men were divided into 12 groups of approximately 12 men each. Meanwhile the Medical Service had prepared 6 courses in medical subjects. Now by rotating the groups of men through all twelve courses of instruction in turn, every man was instructed in each subject, and every officer was given a chance not only to form an estimate of each man's ability but also to earn his confidence and respect if he could. A careful record was kept by the officers for future use in selecting the best qualified men for the many technical jobs, some of them highly specialized, on the different sections and services. Some of the courses were very elaborate and required unusual apparatus and materials. Thus, Maj. Gundersen needed pigs' eyes for one exercise in his course—and got them. Bandages, plaster, weights, pulleys, hospital beds, Balkan frames, instruments, otoscopes, and even skeletons were borrowed from the Station Hospital. Great ingenuity was shown in devising diagrams and models to demonstrate details not easily visualized from verbal description alone. For instance, Capt. Sturgis made a cardboard face with detachable features to illustrate some of

the principles of maxillo-facial plastic surgery. Officers and men entered with such enthusiasm into the course, and the quality of students and instructors was so high, that it would have been impossible to fail to produce a professional service of which anyone might be proud.

Not all the surgical training was confined to the officers and men. At the Station Hospital Capt. Sarris organized and conducted courses in anesthesia for about twenty nurses who volunteered. Nor was all of the instruction purely surgical. The complexity of the various courses involved much paper-work and many problems of administration which were good practice for the future. The hearty cooperation of the staff of the Station Hospital was an important factor in the success of this phase of technical training.

In the midst of these activities, the axe fell on the Surgical Service for the first (but not the last) time in the form of transfer orders. Sullivan, Ulfelder, Staples, and Suby were ordered to report for assignment to new units as the result of still a third change in our Table of Organization. Those who were left at Blanding continued with their training. After the technical courses had become well established, the officers had time in the mornings to organize a "Troop School" for the study of Army Extension Courses in such subjects as sanitation, composition of the various combat arms of the service, and military law. Papers were also prepared and read on recent developments in military medicine, tropical diseases, aviation medicine, seasickness, and means of survival on a life raft. Troop School caused many laughs then, but has since proved its value in unexpected ways. By December 1943, when the unit was alerted (or thought to be alerted) the second phase of training passed into history.

CASABLANCA

The move from Blanding, the staging at Camp Kilmer, N. J., the embarkation at New York, the long ocean trip, and the arrival at Casablanca, French Morocco, contained nothing that was peculiar to the Surgical Service. On a raw morning late in February 1943 the men of the professional services woke up, or at least stood

up, to find themselves in a huge warehouse half-filled with 6th General Hospital packing crates across a rainy street from the main hospital. The officers woke up in one of the two large dormitories of a young ladies' school. Further exploration showed this to be a white, flat-roofed, three-story, cement building extending almost around three sides of a central courtyard full of palm trees and slit-trenches and bounded on the fourth side by a high wall containing a large iron gate. On the opposite (or second) side of the quadrangle the buildings left a gap through which the warehouse, "Fabricant de Bois Morrocain", could be seen. The "Morocco Building", as it soon came to be called, was full of cold, wet men and mountainous packing cases, on which the rain impartially fell through a leaky tile roof. The school buildings themselves were full of Arab workmen apparently engaged in the slow and uncertain task of converting the school into a hospital under the direction of a hypothetical engineer officer. Four large rooms on the ground floor of the west building had already been partitioned off for operating rooms but were not quite finished. Everything else was frank chaos—no water, no toilets, no lights, and plenty of rubbish and Arabs.

It was decided that the first thing to do was to set up an operating room to take care



Surgical Team in Action

of surgical emergencies. But before this could be done it was necessary to divide the 78 men assigned to the Surgical Service into sections so that the operating section could unpack and set up its own equipment. On our first day in Casablanca, February 22, 1943, the surgical officers met with the training records before them. In rotation by seniority each section chief, in consultation with his section officers, chose the men he thought best fitted for his section, and this was continued until all the men were assigned. The operating section

Lt. Col. E. F. Bland, M.C.
Asst. Medical Chief



Maj. Sylvester Kelley, M.C.
Chief of Urologic



Lt. Col. M. K. Bartlett, M.C.
Chief of Septic Surgery





The "Doc's" on Duty

under Capt. Sarris then cleaned up one operating room, unpacked their equipment, inventoried it, and set a guard over it. They set up autoclaves and sterilizers, instrument cabinets and operating tables, and within 3 days of landing they reported ready for business. The rest of the men worked in Medical Supply until such time as they should be needed for opening wards.

On the 6th of March the first surgical ward was opened (ward 32) in one of a row of small class-rooms on the ground floor of the south wing, and the following day two more similar 12 bed wards were opened (wards 30 and 21), the General Surgery Section under Maj. Parsons pioneering in this enterprize. From then until April 15 new wards were opened as fast (or faster) than the Arabs got out of them, in every instance the wards being set up entirely by their own personnel, until a bed capacity of 601 had been reached. Loss, misplacement, and breakage of equipment were negligible, initial cleaning was honest and thorough, and full occupancy was rapid and efficient. During this difficult phase the confidence previously built up between officers and men by their long weeks of training together at Blanding was amply justified.

Between the 6th of March 1943 and the 1st of May 1944, 8747 patients were treated on surgical wards with only 12 deaths. Seven were due to severe head injuries, accidents in 6 cases, and suicidal in one. Two deaths were due to severe burns, one incurred in a plane crash and one in a gasoline explosion. One was from gas gangrene, one from liver abscess and septicemia, and one from accidental 45 caliber machine gun wounds of the abdomen and chest. Only three of the twelve patients lived long enough after admission to reach a ward.

Of the 8747 cases, about one third were surgical diseases and two thirds were injuries. Of approximately 6000 injuries, only about half were battle casualties; the rest were the result of accidents. Most of the battle casualties were received from 2 to 4 weeks after being wounded, and none of them died. Our first battle casualties were from Fondouk, Casserine Pass, and even nearer, but as 1943 passed they came from farther and farther away until by January of the new year the war had moved so far from Casablanca that few even got farther south than Oran. By Spring it became plain that the hospital would soon close. Late in April 1944 the Moroccan wards were closed, property turned in to Medical Supply, and packing began. By the end of April we had shrunk to 242 beds. On May 5th our last ward closed (ward 128), and our bed capacity was 0. The operating room was the last thing to close, on the 9th of May. On May 15, 1944 we stuck our heads from the slowly moving train and saw the last of the white walls of Casablanca.

At Casablanca the surgical officers got their first practical introduction to Disposition Boards. Two thousand, nine hundred and fifty were written and signed. However, this was not the worst that happened there. We lost Capt. Heyl in April, Major Parsons in May, Lt. McKittrick in July, Capt. Cantlon in November, and Maj. Taylor in December. To compensate for these losses the service gained Lt. Landig from the Air Corps, Capt. Jarrett from the Rangers, Capt. Worthy from the Medical Service, and Capt. Kistler from the 240th QM Battalion. There were also changes in nurses and enlisted men on the Surgical Service, some by permanent loss, some by assignment to other duties. But always those who were left drew closer together to face whatever the future might have in store for us.

ROME

The move by train to Oran, the dreary days on Goat Hill while the nurses basked on the beach at Ain El Turk, and the Mediterranean cruise from Oran to Naples on the hospital ships Shamrock and Seminole had nothing distinctively surgical about them. On our arrival at Maddeloni outside of Naples, however, a short but very significant phase began. All of the surgical officers and many of the men and nurses were ordered on detached service to various busy hospitals in and around Naples. Here, during June, they had a chance to experience "push conditions"—hundreds of fresh battle casualties admitted daily, perpetual operating, cumulative fatigue, and growing confusion. This was new to us,—we studied it with the fresh perspective of inexperience and looked earnestly for ways of doing it better if our own turn should ever come. It was not long in coming.

On June 20th we left Naples by truck for the secondary port of Bagnoli, where we embarked on an LCI in the rain for an overnight cruise to Anzio. From Anzio we went to Rome in trucks, passed Vatican City on the right, and ended our journey at a huge, queer-looking, pink brick building which rose in many spires and towers from the fields five miles out in the country. This was the "Instituto Buon Pastore", originally a Catholic institution for wayward girls, then an Italian, later a German Military hospital. We found it partially occupied by the 56th Evacuation Hospital, and we moved in on top of them. Much of our equipment had already arrived. As usual, the place was filthy, lacked water, toilets, and lights, and in addition, the future surgical wards were housing most of the enlisted men of our own and the 56th



Officers attending Patients in Medical and Surgical Wards

Evacuation Hospital. At least 300 patients were promised for June 30th. Profiting by our experience at Casablanca, our well-tested organization, and the lessons we had learned at Naples, we set to work. A huge room was selected for the Operating Room—big enough for fourteen tables and a long central supply table. Scrub sinks were installed by the engineers. Wards were

More Action Shots





Maj. Otto Aufranc, M.C.



Maj. Samuel Klein, M.C.



Maj. J. A. Halstead, M.C.



Maj. Chas. L. Short, M.C.

equipped and opened as soon as the space could be vacated and the men moved into tents. The Surgical Office opened June 26th, the Operating Department June 28th, the first ward June 29th, and on June 30th, when the patients began to arrive as the last of the 56th Evacuation people were leaving, our bed capacity was 767. By the first of July the push was on in earnest.

In our first month at Rome one thousand, five hundred and twenty operations were done,—almost as many as were done during our whole 15 months at Casablanca. Daily operating schedules reached 150 and stayed there day after day. In spite of the skill and devotion to duty of our personnel it would have been impossible to keep up such a pace without the careful planning based on what we had seen in the Naples hospitals the month before. The recovery ward, the plaster room, the large operating space, the litter teams, the unobstructed passageways, the central sterile table, the continuous supply, the reserve nurses anesthetists, — everything worked. Quietly, smoothly, efficiently, and tirelessly the immense job went on day after day. Litter teams of tough Italian Alpini

had to be replaced frequently because of blistered hands. The wards were scattered, there were many stairs, and the carrys were long. Many improvisations were required to make up for faulty plumbing, intermittent water and electric supply, scarce equipment, and the necessary ingenuity and resourcefulness were always forthcoming. The Medical Service pitched in and helped. Four officers, Maj. Colcock, Maj. Charbonnet, Capt. Smith, and Capt. Weed were borrowed from the 24th General Hospital to help man medical wards flooded with surgical cases and did splendid work, as did the 24 enlisted technicians who came with them. During this busy month three thousand, twelve patients, about ninety per cent of them fresh battle casualties, were admitted. Only 6 died; 2 of general peritonitis, 2 of pulmonary embolus, 1 of shock and exhaustion, and 1 of auricular fibrillation.

Almost all of our patients in Rome were Americans. In July the peak load of battle casualties came from the fighting around Piambino on the approaches to Leghorn. Another peak came in September when the fighting was in the Gothic Line in the

Maj. Heury H. Faxon, M.C.



Maj. Alfred Kranes, M.C.



Maj. Claude E. Welch, M.C.



Maj. S. P. Sarris, M.C.





Capt. J. R. Frazee, M.C.

Capt. W. S. Worthy, M.C.

Capt. Claude McGahey, M.C.

Capt. Somers H. Sturgis, M.C.

mountainous country north of Florence. In the five and two-thirds months between 20th June 44 and 22nd December 44 while the hospital was open, a total of six thousand four hundred thirty two surgical patients were treated with a total mortality of 14 deaths. Four thousand seven hundred thirty one returned to duty after an average stay of 33 days in the hospital, 1167 were evacuated to the United States after an average stay of 39 days, and 520 men transferred to other hospitals after an average stay of 24 days. The return to duty of over 73 per cent of our surgical cases in so short a time was made possible only by the fine care they had received before reaching us, the high quality of surgery and nursing in our hospital, and the superb courage of the American soldier.

Meanwhile incessant work was required to improve the physical plant, cope with such of its deficiencies as were incurable, and strengthen the organization machinery to keep it running smoothly. In August Maj. Faxon's health failed, and he was sent home to the Fitzsimmons General Hospital by air travel, going through Cas-

blanca on the way. In September Maj. Long and Capt. Goldstein, comparatively recent additions, were replaced by Maj. Jones and Capt. Van Horn, and Maj. Klein reported for duty in Maj. Faxon's place. Early in December Capt. Jarrett went home on rotation, not to return. The work had been letting up, officers were beginning to be sent out on detached service to 5th Army hospitals, and it began to look as if the many rumors about moving might be true. On December 22nd the last patient was transferred to the 34th Station Hospital, which had recently moved in on top of us, and we began to pack with orders for a move into the Po Valley. However, Von Rundstedt attacked instead, the Italian drive was postponed, our orders were rescinded, and we sat in our empty hospital until April, being sent off on detached service or leave until almost none of our personnel was left. Even the Commanding Officer was unexpectedly ordered home towards the end of March. A month later new orders were at last received for the hospital to move to Bologna. However, the inactive period between December 1944 and

Capt. B. R. Wiltberger, M.C.

Capt. James T. Hayes, M.C.

Capt. J. J. Kistler, M.C.

Capt. W. L. Fiegel, M.C.





Capt. M. B. Harrison, M.C.

Capt. B. S. Bennett, M.C.

Capt. T. C. Meitzen, M.C.

Capt. T. H. Ingalls, M.C.

May 1945 was not a total loss to the Surgical Service, as many of the officers and some of the technicians and nurses had a chance to become familiar with the problems of forward surgery during this time, and Col. Rogers was able to investigate some of the results of our own surgery as they looked in an Army hospital at home.

BOLOGNA

The advance party reached Bologna on April 29th, the main party May 1st, having come by train to Florence, thence by truck over famous Route 65 and Route 64, and by May 10th almost all the nurses and officers had arrived by devious routes from the various places they had been working. The first week in May Col. Prosser, the new Commanding Officer, arrived from the 70th General Hospital at Pistoria. Again the 6th General Hospital was given a building never intended for a hospital, but at least it was neither a school nor a home for girls, wayward or otherwise. It was the industrial science branch of the University of Bologna, a large, modern,

4 - story, many - eled, brick - and - cement building at the foot of a steep hill on the south edge of the City. The Surgical Service had the third and fourth floors. Again came the familiar battle against time with engineers, plumbers, electricians, civilian masons, and wards occupied as temporary quarters by our enlisted men. Now veterans of two major moves, we set up a model establishment, if not with ease, at least with greatly improved efficiency, retaining all that our former experience had proved good, avoiding all that was bad. Again we had a spacious operating room, plaster room, and recovery ward. The first wards opened May 9, and by June 1 our bed capacity was 820, we had admitted 796 patients, discharged 106, done 393 operations, and had 10 deaths, only one of them an American. Our patients were for the most part German soldiers. Even allowing for the Wehrmacht's recent military disaster we were appalled at their bad surgical condition on arrival. The treatment they had been given in their own hospitals seemed to us unbelievably antiquated and crude. It was surprising so many survived.

Capt. "Dan" D. Smith, M.C.



*T/5 Shallcross
taking an
Electrocardiograph
of Patient's
Heart Beats*



Surgical Team

V-E Day was duly celebrated but brought little change in our work, except that now we had no blackout and were getting German prisoners of war to work on the German wards. All hospital signs and many printed rules had to be in English, Italian, and German, and the personnel problems was complicated indeed. Another effect of V-E Day was the loss of Maj. Gundersen, who had gone on temporary duty and could not get back. Then came "redeployment", starting with the transfer of officers to other units for further overseas duty and their replacement by officers not eligible or needed for further overseas duty. Maj. Sarris and Capt. Laudig left for the 171st Evacuation Hospital in June. Maj. Jones and Capt. Lawrence had been replaced by Capt. Hayes, Capt. Bennett, and Capt. Wiltberger just before we reached Bologna. Maj. Bassen replaced Maj. Gundersen on June 6.

At the present writing (June 17, 1945) we were officially assured that the Italian theatre is breaking up and that our work is practically over. We are therefore not surprised to see it steadily increasing day by day. Nevertheless everyone is uneasy about being chosen to go to the Pacific theatre or the Army of Occupation and there is a feeling of impermanence and unrest in the air. It would be safe to say that the Surgical Service, though still active and as good as ever, has passed the days of its greatest glory and is entering into that inevitable period of decline which must be accepted as the common lot of all humanity.

H. ROGERS



*When it comes to Plaster—
this Gang can sling it!*

Top: Physical Therapy at its best

Capt. K. B. Lawrence





Lt. Col. J. R. Lingley, M.C.



Capt. Stanley M. Wyman, M.C.

HISTORY OF THE ROENTGENOLOGICAL SERVICE

The roentgenological service was born on the sands of Blanding, where, in small groups under the pine trees, we studied textbooks on physics, anatomy, and roentgen technique for eight long months. When the resources of the Camp Blanding Station Hospital were put at our disposal, much time was spent there in assembling X-Ray machines, practicing the positioning of patients, and doing over and over again the various things that we expected to do when we reached an overseas theater. Incidentally, we also devoted many hours perspiring through close-order drill, route marches, and other soldierly occupations. It is doubtful if we ever became shining

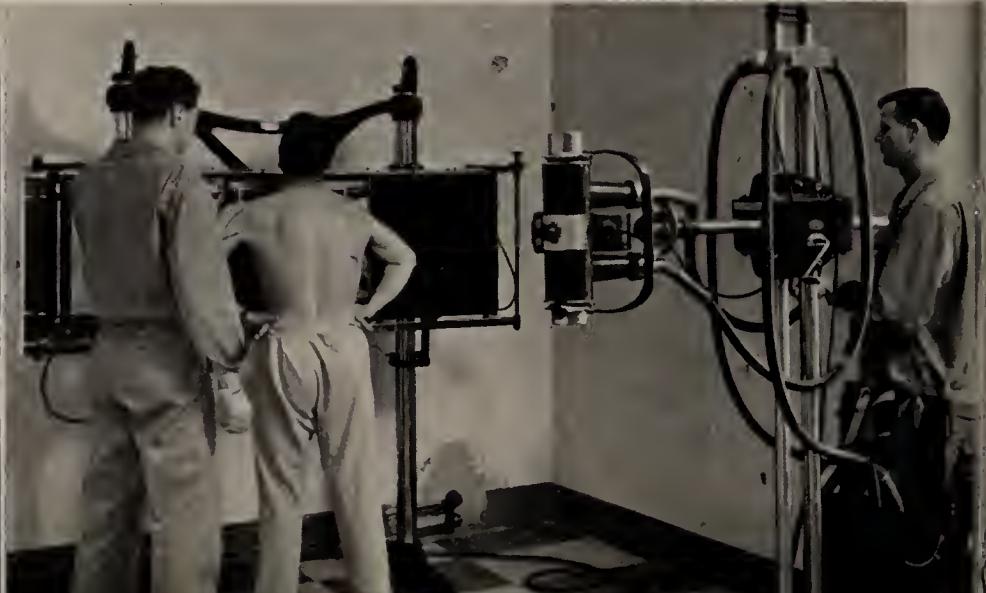
examples in military deportment but the time devoted to X-Ray was well spent, for during this period, we developed the individual skill, team work, esprit de corps, and confidence necessary to make us into an efficient unit.

On arrival in Casablanca, we found that the building assigned to X-Ray would not be ready for occupancy for a month to six weeks. A temporary department was set up, therefore, in one of the Orthopedic wards and the service was ready to operate when the first patients were admitted on 8 March 1943. The first month exceeded our most optimistic predictions regarding the amount of work. The patients arrived in a

Office of X-Ray in Bologna



Take a deep breath — Hold it —

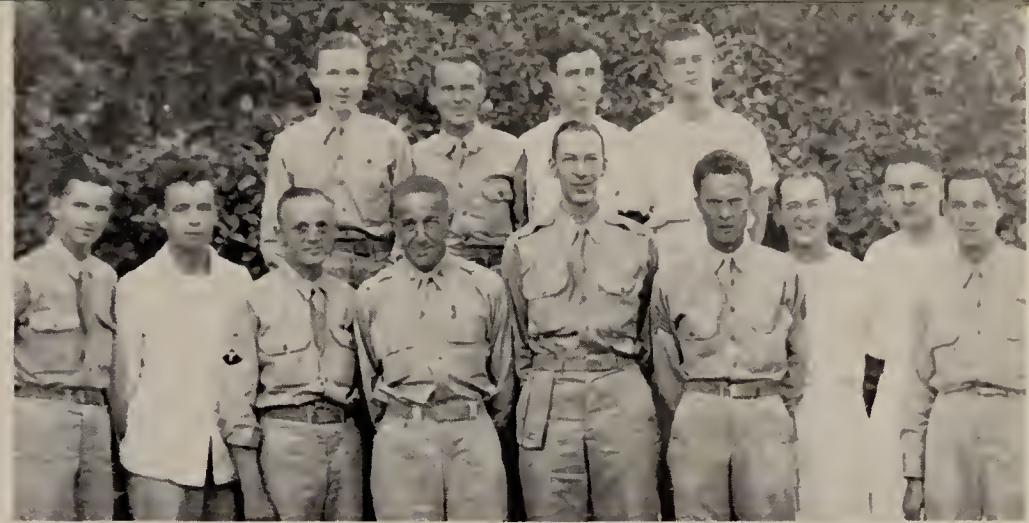


deluge and our three machines, operating in cramped and inadequate quarters, ran twelve to sixteen hours daily to perform the examinations that were requested. No one who worked in the cubby-hole under the stairs will forget our first dark-room. The work of the technicians was further complicated by the numerous Arab workmen who were continually underfoot or climbing about the walls, and one of the incidents that will be remembered was the time a full bucket of cement came through the window, completely ruining the day's output of films and Capt. Wyman's disposition. As the volume of work increased, the office (one desk) had to be moved out into the corridor, where it was in danger of being overrun by the patients, whose cots were beginning to fill every corridor and alcove.

While the technical staff was working to full capacity, Lt. Col. Lingley and Capt. Wyman divided their time between the department and the construction in the permanent building and it was a familiar sight to see one of them wielding the yard-stick, busily laying bricks with the Arab masons, or practicing their French on the long-suffering foremen.

It was with great pleasure that we moved to the permanent department on 8 April 1943. This building was an historical relic, since it was the first French school that was built in Casablanca. It was a wooden, barn-like structure, but the amount of space, the arrangement of the rooms and the lead protection that was installed made it quite satisfactory for our purpose. During the thirteen months that we occupied this building, the service operated to full efficiency and with all the supplies, equipment, and conveniences that one would expect in a hospital at home.

Sgt. Carter deserves much credit for the installation, wiring, and upkeep of the machines. Not even a General Electric repair man could have understood the wiring system that was finally evolved for the 200 milliampere machine, and it is unlikely that he could have kept this machine running as well. Sgt. Moore kept the members of the technical staff on their toes all the time and when it came to both quality of the work and mass production, he was a whole X-Ray department in himself. Sgt. Muggleton directed all activities of the department in his usual effortless and effi-



The Original Gang



Off Duty Hours — G. I. Restaurant



The Boss at Work

cient manner, while Sgt. Martin kept the file room, the records and all visiting nurses polished up and in perfect order. Sgt. Mattax, the perfect secretary made his debut at this time and it was not long before he was able to type what an officer was thinking before he had a chance to say it. Sgts. Sherwood, Shaner, Leach, Pederson, and Savoy showed great promise from the

start and during this period they developed into highly qualified technicians of whom any X-Ray service would be proud. Corp. Weil was always to be found doing his efficient job in the file room, while Pfc. Smith and Pfc. Yuhas carried out their special brand of technique with excellent results. Whenever there was heavy lifting to be done, Strong-arm Smitty was there to do it. Yugas, on the other hand, distinguished himself by being able to get more work done in the sitting position than any other man in the army. It was said that he would get up on the entrance of a two-star general, but never for a one-star. It is doubtful if this is true, however, because he and the other technicians always seemed to have the ability to evaporate into thin air on the approach of a general, like the characters in a Thorne Smith novel.

The time spent at Casablanca was an interesting and productive period for the service. It was highlighted by the development by Capt. Wyman of an improved spot-film device for the taking of instantaneous films during fluoroscopy, and by a trip made by Lt. Col. Lingley, Sgt. Moore and Sgt. Carter to Marrakech to examine Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

The trip to Italy, by train to Oran and Goat Hill and then by hospital ship to Naples was an interesting experience for everyone. Even Goat Hill had its interesting moments, as for example, when we put the turtle in Maj. Nathan's bed. At Madalone, all the technicians were sent out on detached service to hospitals operating in and around Naples where they had the opportunity to see how other X-Ray services operated and to gather new ideas and methods.

On our arrival at Buon Pastore in Rome, the Roentgenological Service was assigned a suite of 10 rooms on the second floor conveniently located in respect to the chapel and the orthopedic wards, and guarded externally by two large stone angels of rather portly figure. Moving our larger pieces of equipment into the department by means of a block and tackle turned out to be a major engineering task and there were several hair-raising moments when the large crates of valuable equipment swung 100 feet above the pavement while the iron railing

bent, the cement cracked and we called on the angels and the Italian Alpine troops for assistance. The job was well executed by Sgt. Manion and his men, however, and everything was delivered without a jar. On opening the crates, we found that the equipment had fared rather badly on its trip by train, boat, and truck from Africa. Several tubes that had been packed in sawdust, cork and excelsior, were broken into a thousand pieces and some upright steel rods, five inches in diameter, were bent like safety-pins. Lt. Barron from the Surgeon's Office and Sgt. Carter, however, with the never-failing assistance of the Ordnance, were able to repair the damaged parts and to replace the broken tubes and the service was again in full operation on 7 July 1944.

The next few months were the busiest of all our time overseas, the peak load coming in August when 2000 examinations were performed on 1800 patients. Whereas formerly most of our patients had been through a number of hospitals before coming to us, the patients that we received in Rome were for the most part fresh battle casualties who required a great deal of X-Ray study before and after surgery. At this time, we constructed a fluoroscopic foreign-body localizer for the operating room, which was used in a large number of cases to good advantage. This machine was somewhat of a Rube Goldberg affair. It required the radiologist to insert his head, in a light-proof tunnel, like an ostrich, in order that he might view the fluoroscopic screen under the table and thus direct the surgeon to the foreign body. It never failed to elicit humorous comment from those who saw it for the first time, but it was quite effective in speeding the removal of foreign bodies.

At this time we were fortunate in having our staff increased by the addition of the following members: Pfc. Shriver, Giardina, Merchant, Walk, Johnson, Jacobson and Bues. These men were former patients who had been discharged to limited service and assigned to X-Ray. Classes in technique, physics and anatomy were carried on by Sgt. Moore, while practical demonstrations were given by the other technicians during the daily work. The new men learned fast and in a very few months they

proved to be valuable additions to our staff.

During the Fall of 1944, the amount of work gradually diminished and in December we welcomed the order to pack the equipment preparatory to another move. Early in January 1945, Capt. Wyman, Sgts. Moore, Martin, and Shaner were sent on detached service to the 15th Field Hospital north of Florence. Lt. Col. Lingley and Sgts. Mattax, Sherwood, and Pederson were sent to the 99th Field Hospital. The remainder of the staff stayed at headquarters where they participated in a program of basic training and education, meanwhile enjoying the cultural life of Rome.

Both groups on detached service had the interesting and profitable experience of practising radiology under field conditions in tents during a North Italian winter. Our early fears that we would have to break the ice on the developer each morning before going to work proved to be unfounded and most of us agreed that working in a winterized tent was more comfortable than in an unheated Italian building. Capt. Wyman's group was extremely busy during their stay in the Apennines and Captain Wyman had the satisfaction of proving to everyone who saw his films that radiographic work of the highest quality can be produced under field conditions.

After three months at Unit C. of the 99th Field Hospital, the radiological group was divided among the three units of the hospital and Lt. Col. Lingley and Sgt. Mattax became travelling radiologists. Since their schedule permitted them to spend every week-end at the headquarters of the hospital which was located on a beautiful beach, it was obvious why Sgt. Mattax became known as the happiest man on detached service.

On or about May 1, 1945, all detached personnel were recalled and the entire hospital moved to Bologna for one final set-up while the European campaign was ending. The Roentgenological Service was assigned a wing on the third floor conveniently located with respect to the operating rooms and orthopedic wards and where the space



Technician at Work

and arrangement of the rooms was very satisfactory. During our operation we were handicapped by the loss of six of our best technicians. Sgts. Carter, Muggleton, and Savoy were returned to the United States; Sgt. Moore transferred to another hospital; and Sgts. Sherwood and Pederson were temporarily assigned to other duties. The new men, who were trained in Rome, ably led by Sgts. Martin and Shaner, stepped into the gaps and did valiant service throughout our stay in Bologna.

Statistics have been omitted intentionally from this account, but the grand totals may be of some interest. Between 8 March 1943 and 25 July 1945, the Roentgenological Service had 21,346 patients and performed 22,821 examinations. While there were naturally some slow periods and some periods of complete inactivity, on the whole we were fortunate in having our share of radiological work in the African and Italian campaigns.

Lt. Col. J. R. LINGLEY, M. C.



Dental Clinic in Bologna

HISTORY OF DENTAL SERVICE

Although the 6th General Hospital Unit had been in the process of formation for some time, it was not until after that dark day of December 7th, when we realized that we were actually at war, that the Dental Service began to take shape. A part of each Wednesday morning was then set aside to interview dentists and men who would be essential in our organization.

When the Unit left the South Station for Camp Blanding, Florida 15 May 1942,

Col. Robert G. Rae, D.C.



the Dental Service was composed of Major Robert G. Rae, Captain Joseph H. DeMers, Captain Hermann B. F. Seyfarth, Captain Daniel J. Holland, Lt. Robert M. Bailey, Lt. Frederick K. Poulin, Lt. Calvin R. Coggins, and hygienists Miss Levina T. Hine and Miss Herberta Turner. The enlisted personnel from Boston and vicinity was composed of the following men—Karl Arabian, William J. Burrows, George N. Covett, Paul A. Dann, Francis P. Gill, John McDermott, Ralph K. Harley, Gordon Hayner, and George Elliott, who arrived at Blanding two weeks later. Men assigned to the Dental Service from the 63rd General Hospital included Harry L. Ward, John A. Ilardo, Henry P. Tomiak, Joseph T. Jaskulski, Walter F. Konopa, Levant Hall, Paul Tyman, and John Nigro.

At Blanding we made the friendship of the Camp Dental Surgeon, Col. Lynn H. Tingay, and from him learned the rudiments of the work of an Army Dental Officer. Col. Tingay followed us to Africa where he was the Dental Surgeon of NATOUS and later MTOUSA. Dental officers and enlisted personnel were assigned to Camp Dental Clinics where much valuable work was performed on troops. We were excused from Dental duties two afternoons a week to permit us to take part in road marches—which gets one in fine condition for more marches.

On the 15th of June, Lt. Poulin and Lt. Coggins along with a number of Medical Corps officers were transferred from our unit to Fort Story, Va. as there had been a change in the Table of Organization of



Maj. Hermann Seyfarth, D.C.

Capt. Robert S. Wands, D.C.

1st. Lt. R. D. Morrow, D.C.

Capt. John R. McCann, D.C.

General Hospitals. Early in the Summer we learned from the War Department that our two highly esteemed hygienists, Miss Hine and Miss Turner, were not to be allowed to accompany us overseas. To say the least, both young women were very much disappointed at this decision. On 11 January Miss Turner left the organization, having been transferred to the Hammond General Hospital in California. Miss Hine ventured forth on the sea of matrimony and left 14 January for Georgia. Before leaving the unit, both hygienists devoted considerable time in training of enlisted men so that they might become proficient in the work of dental prophylaxis. The efforts of the hygienists were greatly appreciated and the 6th General was very regretful to have them leave the unit.

The day after our arrival at Camp Kilmer, our last stop in the States, a request was made that all dental officers should report for duty at the clinic. A compromise was effected whereby two officers were on duty each day. Most of their time was spent in making out identification records for air corps personnel as the dental burrs were too dull to more than burnish cavities.

Before our departure for parts unknown, we learned that the Dental Service, as well as other of our medical personnel and nurses, were to be distributed throughout the convoy. Capt. Seyfarth, Capt. Holland, and Lt. Bailey were on different ships, while Lt. Col. Rae and Capt. DeMers travelled with the main group of our organization. Dental Clinics were established on respective ships and all emergency work accomplished. It was Capt. Holland's lot to be on an ill-fated ship, which was in collision with a tanker four days out of port, necessitating their return to Bermuda. Due to the accident, Capt. Holland, with meager equip-

ment, was called upon to reduce a fractured mandible and assist in the care of the injured. We were all happy to have Capt. Holland return to the unit on March 19.

Two days after our arrival in Casablanca, North Africa, the Dental and EENT clinics were assigned rooms on the second floor of the main building. There was only a slight difficulty in that five of the rooms were occupied by a French family, who were supposed to have vacated the premises before our arrival. A dental clinic was set up in the available space until such time as the five rooms were vacated. At first many valuable instruments and supplies seemed to be missing from our table of basic equipment. However, day by day Capt. Fowler, our supply Officer, would discover another box of our supplies until finally we were fairly well equipped to carry on the work of the clinic.

Approximately a month had gone by before suitable quarters could be found for the French family. The white tiled kitchen with large windows, ample closets and a North exposure lent itself admirably for the purpose of a dental laboratory. During the first few weeks, work in the laboratory was retarded by lack of electrical power but this was overcome when our own generators began to function. From time to time expendable supplies such as gold and teeth were difficult to obtain but this was straightened out when adequate supply depots were formed. There were a few changes both in officer and enlisted personnel during the Summer of 1943. A mutual exchange of officers was made in August, whereby Capt. DeMers went to the 12th Air Corps and Capt. Abrams took his place in the clinic. T/5 McDermott was found to be in poor health and was returned to the States. When a clerk typist

who could speak Italian was needed by the 1st Division, T/4 Ilardo was picked for the position. T/5 Derkacs, T/5 Sciore, and Pvt. Ethier were added to the dental service. Every patient in the hospital, when ambulatory, came to the dental clinic for examination and completion of all necessary dental work. In some instances, where a large number of our patients were being evacuated to the States and their stay in the hospital was of short duration, this was not possible.

Captain Holland and Captain Sturgis, the maxillo-facial team, went on detached service 31 August to 17 October for the purpose of making a study of maxillo-facial casualties and their treatment. They visited all of the hospitals, both American and British, in the North African Theater and much valuable information was obtained. Captain Bailey was returned to the States by Hospital Ship for recuperation from an operation in February 1944. 1st Lt. McCann was assigned to us February 14.

While in Africa we were able to make acrylic jacket crowns as some of our dental officers, at their own expense, had brought with them the material. This news spread like wild fire so that the fame of the 6th General prosthetic department was bringing patients from hundreds of miles to obtain their services.

Captain Seyfarth was transferred to the 225th Station Hospital April 25, 1944 and Captain Wands was assigned 7 May as we were in the final stages of closing the hospital in preparation for our next move. Captain Holland went on detached service 25 May to work with Colonel Tingay in the preparation of the history of dentistry since the starting of the war. We were happy to be able to have Captain Seyfarth transferred back to the 6th 17 June after a somewhat unpleasant experience with army politics.

Two weeks after the Germans evacuated one of their hospitals in Rome, the 6th took over and remained for nearly 11 months. With, at times, 2400 patients in the hospital, along with outpatients, there were not many dull moments. A maxillo-facial ward under the direction of the dental service was established which proved very satisfactory. Captain Holland returned to duty October 11 and took over the work of this ward, which at the time was filled to capacity and Durham, Flath, Kerr, John-

son, and Dunn were assigned to the dental service. By the middle of December we were all packed and ready for the next move with the exception of one chair and the engine to take care of our own personnel.

Captain Holland went back to work with Colonel Tingay, December 18. In January, 1945, the service was pretty well broken up with Major Seyfarth, Captain McCann, Captain Abrams, and 6 enlisted men on detached service. Major Seyfarth and Captain McCann were operating mobile dental units with the 5th Army. Captain Wands went to the 8th Replacement Depot March 7 while Captain Abrams came back to the 6th. Lt. Richard D. Morrow was assigned to the unit March 1. On the 17th of April, Captain Abrams and Lt. Morrow went over to the Replacement Depot in Rome on temporary duty. Captain Abrams became sick and was transferred to the 45th General Hospital. Tec. 4 Konopa went home on temporary duty during April.

The 1st of May 1945 found the 6th General in Bologna and occupying we hoped its last station in Italy. The dental Service was fortunate in picking out for the clinic rooms which had been used as offices in the engineering building taken over as a hospital. After many trials and tribulations with the Italian plumbers and electricians, a very good clinic was established. Major Seyfarth, Captain McCann, Captain Wands and Lt. Morrow returned from their various temporary duty assignments. A letter to Col. Tingay requesting that Major Holland return to take charge of the fracture cases brought the reply that his services were still needed at MTOUSA. We were very happy to have three of our enlisted men, who had more than 90 points, leave for the good old USA. Tec/4 Ward, Tec Tyman, and Tec/4 Jaskulski were the lucky men and their good fortune to go home left a gap in our personnel which will never be replaced as they were all high caliber technicians.

The history of the dental service is fast drawing to a close. Lt. Morrow, who had been with the 6th for only a short time but who had made a fine impression with everyone, left for Naples and a Replacement Center. Captain McCann and Captain Wands, both splendid dental officers, went to the 37th General and we hope will follow us to the USA. Captain Roth and

Captain Dikoff joined the 6th and three more officers were expected shortly.

It would be boring to give a statistical report of the dental operations performed by the 6th General dental service but the fact that 33,963 sittings were recorded shows that there were not many idle mo-

ments. Credit for a job well done goes to each and every officer and enlisted man of the dental service whose cooperation and faithful discharge of duty has been greatly appreciated.

ROBERT G. RAE, COL. D. C.

HISTORY OF LABORATORY SERVICE

The Laboratory Service was organized at Camp Blanding, Florida, shortly after the 6th General Hospital was activated on 15 May 1942. The chief was Major (now Col.) J. H. Talbott. The other officers were Captain (now Lt. Col.) E. R. Sullivan and Lt. (now Major) Sedgwick Mead. The men then present or added during the year included Ballard, Bergan, Bliton, Bronstein, Connley, Copley, Dieterich, Dunn, Easterday, Forbus, Frigulutti, Gilchrist, Gilmore, Hoag, Holland, Lovell, Ludden, Marino, Marx, Melville, Muhvic, Pletcher, Rahn, Reilly, Ringrud, Rothenberg, Stanley, Sturm, Ward, and Woodford. This group was raided from time to time for cadres and incurred other losses to O.C.S. and the Air Forces.

Life was rather dull in those early days with no hospital of our own to run. The officers organized a training course in laboratory technics, consisting of lectures and demonstrations (employing meager field equipment), often conducted by the men themselves. Arrangements were soon

made for practical work in the Station Hospital, a welcome variation on the diet of training films, close-order drill, and hikes in the alternating Florida sun and rain. One memorable day (4 August 1942) the Laboratory Service marched 23.3 miles in 8 hours in a gruelling sun. And afterward Col. Talbott played volley-ball!

At Camp Kilmer, of evil memory, we lost our chief, Col. Talbott, who was practically yanked off the gang-plank. He remained in the Zone of the Interior for an important mission for the Quartermaster Corps.

In Casablanca a strange new world opened up for us. We occupied 3 rooms, 2 of which had been lecture halls, in the East Wing of the College de Jeunes Filles de Mers Sultan. We had plumbing and distilled water troubles, and we had to design our own terrazzo autopsy table and learn to speak French. We saw some exotic diseases at the French and Arab Hospitals, including plague, typhus, typhoid, smallpox, leprosy, Kala-azar, Orien-

The Laboratory





Capt. Joseph A. Chapman, M.C.



Maj. S. Meade, M.C.



**Lt. Col. E. R. Sullivan, M.C.
Chief Lab. Service**

tal sore, florid syphilis, and rabies. We made some pleasing specimens from cases of leprosy and trachoma.

On 12 June 1943 we lost Major Sullivan to Detached Service with Allied Force Headquarters, where he has remained except for brief visits ever since. And we simultaneously acquired all the work of the 2nd Medical Laboratory. There was a large dysentery epidemic raging at the time, and the burden of work forced us to stay on duty until late at night for several weeks. We became the consulting laboratory for all units in the Atlantic Base Section, and the only one with an animal farm and able to do the Wassermann test. Our total monthly determinations soared to new records. We employed a capable and efficient Spanish technician, Luis de Loma, and we lost Ward to rotation. We acquired Captain W. B. Christensen, Sanitary Corps.

The move to Rome was accomplished with less difficulty than we imagined, and nearly everything arrived intact except a carboy of sulfuric acid which unfortunately ate its way through some ANC lingerie! At Rome we were assigned a large room and 2 corridors, in one of which we set up a blood bank and penicillin service. Although we had some very busy days during that summer of 1944, most of our stay in Rome was a leisurely one. Dieterich and Tileston went home with illness. Besides Tileston we had meanwhile acquired Blanchette and Murry from our training program with available patients. Captain Christensen was replaced by Captain Joseph A. Chapman, Su. Corps.

Many of us were away on Detached Service with other units during the winter months. When we were ordered to proceed

to Bologna and reopen station practically on the very day that the German Armies in Italy unconditionally surrendered, we felt it was something of an anticlimax. Nevertheless we pitched into the now familiar routine of unpacking, setting up reagent tables, and worrying about the electric wiring and plumbing. Our Blood Bank functioned smoothly with an inexhaustible supply of POWs from the Modena Cage. We lost Thurston, Lovell, and Murry to redeployment, and other men such as Bliton and Holland had long since been assigned to other departments in the hospital.

And now history repeats itself almost 2 years to the day after the Casablanca episode—the 2nd Medical Laboratory again closes and notifies us that we are now serving the whole Fifth Army as a laboratory, clear to the Swiss Border! When we have time to think about it we are touched by this tribute to our competence.

We liked working together and had done a good deal of extra-curricular study in such fields as languages, anatomy, mathematics, and psychology. Each department had always been entrusted with a high degree of responsibility for its proper functioning, the procurement of supplies, etc., a system that worked well. Incidentally, we have a record of property loss and damage so low that it is approached by no other Service, in spite of a large and complicated inventory.

Although our softball team may not be the best in the world and our close order drilling may leave something to be desired, we think we have one of the best Services in the 6th General Hospital.

MAJ. S. MEADE, MC.

TRANSPORTATION

The 6th General Hospital Motor Pool came into existence the same day the Hospital Unit entered active military service, May 15, 1942. The Motor Pool was at that time under the command of 2nd Lt. H. H. Fowler, now Capt. Fowler. A cadre from the 63rd General Hospital made up the personnel. Some of the original men were Tec./4 Francis Kiab, Tec./5 Geoci Cornella, Pfc. Manio Bizanni, Tec./5 Cunningham, and S/Sgt. Hunches.

The equipment of the Motor Pool at that time consisted of one jeep, two "goon" wagons, two staff cars, five 1½ ton trucks and five ambulances. Even with such limited equipment the Motor Pool managed to keep busy hauling rations, going back and forth to Jacksonville on business, giving a hand to the Station Hospital on hauling patients in the 5 ambulances and training for over-seas duties. The mechanics had quite a big job servicing the vehicles, for they were pretty well worn out and had been used before as training vehicles, but nevertheless the Post Ordnance gave the organization repeated compliments on what few vehicles came in to the 3rd ????? shop.

During the month of January 1943 the Motor Pool's duties were increased to a high tempo, for the hospital was starting to get ready for the overseas movement. The trucks were going from morning until late at night hauling clothing and equipment to bring the organization up to full T/E allowances. On top of this, new vehicles had to be drawn which meant the mechanics worked far into the night checking and re-checking to make sure everything was ship-shape. At last the big day arrived and the vehicles were loaded aboard flat cars, checked and wired down and made ready for final movement to the Port of Embarkation. At 6 A. M. January 20, 1943 the train pulled out of the Camp Blanding siding, thus ending the first chapter of the 6th General Hospital Motor Pool.

The 22nd of January, 1943 found the Motor Pool at Camp Kilmer, N. J., with a slight flurry of snow falling. For many of the men this was the first snow they had seen since leaving home. From there on the work really started for the Pool, with many loose ends to be caught up at the staging



1st. Lt. G. B. Bowman, C.E.

area. The only transportation available were trucks borrowed on a day to day basis from the Camp Motor Pool, but somehow the work was accomplished. The driving conditions at Kilmer were very difficult, for snow, sleet and mud were a constant menace. At last the day came to board ship and on February 7, 1943 the Motor Pool, together with the rest of the Unit piled aboard the good ship Brazil and steamed out of New York harbor bright and early on February 8, 1943.

Upon arriving in Casablanca, French Morocco, the men were marched from the ship to the shed behind the main building which later became known as the Moroccan Building. Here they were bivouacked on the cold damp floor of this spacious building and when dawn broke on January 21, 1943, most of the men found themselves in the strangest surroundings they had as yet encountered. Nevertheless a job had to be done, so they were soon out trying to gather up their equipment. It so happened that none of the vehicles which the Motor Pool had taken such excellent care of, were assigned to it, but instead new vehicles were drawn. These vehicles consisted of one jeep, 2 staff cars, 2 personnel carriers, 18 ambulances, and 7 1½ ton trucks. At first it seemed we were top heavy with ambulances, but later it was proven that not enough ambulances were assigned. For the mass evacuations of patients from hospital to boat and from train to hospital taxed the Motor Pool's endurance far beyond the

breaking point. The largest evacuation handled by the Motor Pool included 749 patients in 6 hours time, on March 4, 1944.

In addition to carrying patients, the Motor Pool was called upon to haul rations, quartermaster and medical supplies and personnel. Many trips were made to Fes to meet the hospital train, as well as to Meknes and other interesting cities in French Morocco. During the 16 months stay in Morocco, the Motor Pool drove 265,000 miles, with only one fatal accident, where a driver ran over an Arab child who had carelessly run into the path of the on-coming vehicle. The facts of the case show that the driver was not to blame for this accident. For the low accident rate in Casablanca, the Motor Pool was commended by the Commanding Officer, and rightly so, for the driving conditions were of the worst. The drivers had to contend with careless pedestrians who wandered at random through the narrow crooked streets and Arab carts which took up most of the road, and which could be expected to turn, back up or stop for no obvious reason. Also the Arab children were always under the vehicles, chasing balls or playing games, but surprisingly enough they always seemed to escape sure death by the narrowest fractions, due to the excellent driving of the Motor Pool men.

At 6 A.M. on May 15, 1944 the motor pool waved good bye to Casablanca from the cabs of their vehicles as they pulled out of that fair city. It was a sad parting, for within a 15 months' period many friends had been made by the men with the local citizens and many hearts were left with the local French belles. The convoy proceeded from Casablanca to Fes, where the convoy commander went forward to find a suitable spot to bivouac for the night. This was chosen several miles outside the city, on the side of a rocky hill. The kitchen was set up and everyone had a hot meal. That night the motor pool slept with the sky as a roof, and no one seemed to mind the hard rock beds that were their lot. At daybreak the cooks were out preparing a hot breakfast, which was most welcome for a Moroccan night is damp and chilly. As soon as the breakfast dishes were washed, the convoy started rolling once again and at noon stopped on the barest waste of land anyone had ever seen. When the convoy rolled in, not a living thing was in sight and one could see for miles in every direction. No

sooner had the "C" rations been dished out, when from nowhere appeared what seemed to be an entire Arab village, begging cigarettes and "bous-lions." A 45 minute break was taken and off we rolled again. About 2 p.m. Oujda was passed and again the convoy commander went in search of a suitable bivouac area. This time a spot by a little stream was found, with some shade trees. The men had quite a time bathing and splashing in the creek before supper and by supper-time everyone was greatly refreshed. After supper several 5 gallon cans were taken back into Oujda and 20 gallons of local beer were purchased and brought back to camp. There we had quite a little beer party, with singing and general good fellowship. Again the men slept in the open beneath a starry Algerian sky, for as the convoy rolled through Oujda, it passed from Morocco into Algeria.

The next afternoon the convoy found itself on a high hill overlooking Oran. Here it stopped while the convoy commander went into Oran to find out where it was to stay. Much to our dismay we found ourselves parked on a desolate spot nicknamed "Goat Hill." It was a poor name for no self-respecting goat would have been caught dead there. We were allowed to keep our trucks for only a few days, and then they had to be loaded aboard a Liberty Ship, bound for Naples, Italy. After two weeks of Goat Hill, everyone was glad to board ship for the ride to Naples. The Motor Pool went alone aboard the Liberty Ship with their vehicles. There were 20 6th General Hospital Motor Pool men and one officer. The only other American troops aboard were one officer who acted as cargo security officer and three enlisted men who ran the dispensary. The other passengers consisted of Arab troops, a handful of French non-coms and 5 French officers. The 20 Motor Pool men were assigned to the gun crews the first day aboard and helped the Navy gun crews clean and polish the 20 mm. guns and the big 5-inch anti-aircraft guns. For the first two days the gun crews ran through dry firing practice, and on the third day fired live ammunition. About 11:30 p.m. the 5th day out, just off the coast of Algeria and close to Algiers, the Motor Pool got its first taste of combat, for several enemy torpedo planes came over. Our ship was on the outside lane and the Jerry had us picked out for the kill, for flares were

dropped on all sides of the ship, making it as bright as day. Our gun crews were undaunted, however, and the barrage they threw up drove the Hun plane away. The following day the Naval Officer in charge of the gun crew made a special visit to the quarters of the officer in charge of the Motor Pool and told him that his men were the coolest and best men he had ever had as gun crews. Finally Naples came into view, a very welcome sight after 9 days at sea. From Naples we bivouacked outside of Maddaloni, and hauled our supplies and equipment from the Caserto rail-head to our bivouac area. After a 10 day sojourn, the Motor Pool with new equipment pulled out in convoy for Rome. The convoy left at 4 a.m. sharp during a heavy rain storm and pulled into Rome just in time for Sunday dinner with the 38th Evacuation Hospital. From there on the men were kept busier than ever before hauling in supplies, equipment and rations.

While in Rome the Motor Pool was required to haul supplies from Naples and Leghorn and were on the go most of the time. In Rome the Motor Pool was located just across the road from the hospital in a large concrete building that had been a wood work shop. Here it was very convenient and with new allowances of tools and equipment the Motor Pool mechanics kept the vehicles in tip-top shape. Much more night driving was required of the Motor Pool than ever before, because of the long distance into Rome and a regular bus schedule was followed for the personnel. Finally, just after Christmas, the hospital closed its doors and the Motor Pool thought it would get a well deserved rest. But they were sadly mistaken, for most of the officers, nurses and enlisted men were placed on temporary duty with other medical corps installations that ranged from Naples to the Futa Pass, and the Motor Pool was required to haul the personnel to all of these places. During the 11 months stay in Rome the Motor Pool drove 473,000 miles, almost twice as far as was driven in Morocco, with only one fatal accident.

On April 29, 1945 the Motor Pool once again started out in convoy, this time to Bologna. The convoy stopped for dinner along the roadside just outside Leghorn, and by 2 p.m. was in the refueling point in that city. Here the convoy was delayed until the necessary clearance papers to get



Motor Pool Activities

Motor Pool Inspection



The Alpines



into 5th Army territory were obtained, but we finally got into Florence in time for dinner with the 24th General Hospital. The next morning we had breakfast with the 24th and then headed for Bologna over the Apennine Mountains. It was quite a haul, for the trucks were very heavily loaded, but the trip was made without a single mishap. Our destination was reached by 11:30 a.m. and a hot meal was prepared on our own field ranges. Here another big job confronted the Motor Pool, for all supplies had to be hauled from Leghorn, which was over the mountains. In addition the garage had to be set up in the open, which made the servicing of the vehicles very

difficult. Finally a civilian garage was located and once again the Motor Pool settled down to a normal routine. Later another garage was found closer to the hospital. During three months spent in Bologna, the Motor Pool traveled a distance of 200,000 miles, an all time high for this unit.

Since the organization of the Motor Pool, it has had four commanding officers, namely: Maj. Herman Nathan, 1st Lt. Gen. B. Bowman, 1st Lt. Joe Rudd, and 2nd Lt. Oscar E. Ostrom. There have also been three Motor Sergeants, namely: S/Sgt. Manio Bizzorri, S/Sgt. R. Heincher and Tec/4 Francis Kiali.

UTILITIES

The Utilities and Maintenance Department of the 6th General Hospital came into being May 15, 1942 when the 63rd General Hospital assigned a cadre to the newly formed 6th General Hospital. The first 9 months at Camp Blanding, Florida found the newly organized department performing various and sundry duties, from policing the area to working with the camp utilities. When a new contingent of men were assigned to the Hospital the Util-

ities Department received its share of carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters. The busiest man in the department during the 9 months stay in Blanding was probably Sgt. Bill Scott, the electrician, who was always plagued with broken radios and faulty wiring. The sign painter also had his worries, for an enormous amount of work lay before him in the painting of foot lockers, bedding rolls, A and B bags, and lettering hospital equipment that was

going to be taken with the unit. Sgt. King, the plumber, spent the best part of his time at the Station Hospital helping the Utilities Section there and also learning all he could about hospital plumbing, autoclaves steam generators, portable sterilizers, etc. The carpentry shop, last but by no means least, had its hands full crating TAT equipment for the long journey overseas, and improvising new and better means of boxing and waterproofing the valuable and delicate equipment that was assigned to the Unit. The carpenters also were repairing and building the officers' tent area and making the necessary repairs on the enlisted men's huts. A big job too, was the building, repair and maintenance of the board walks throughout the hospital area. At last the big day came and the Hospital pulled out of Camp Blanding, Florida and opened station temporarily at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

During the brief stay at Camp Kilmer the Utilities found enough work to keep them well occupied, for there were additional crates to build, buildings housing the hospital personnel to be repaired, and additional foot lockers, bedding rolls, and A and B bags to be lettered. Finally on Feb. 7, 1943 the hospital moved into the Staten Island Port of Embarkation and on Feb. 8, 1943 waved good-bye to America for an indefinite time. The boat ride proved uneventful for the Utilities Dept. and not until Feb. 20, 1943, when the good ship Brazil steamed into Casablanca, French Morocco, did this department get a chance to prove its worth. The job to be performed there looked impossible for there was French plumbing to be contended with, an independable water supply, buildings to be built, wiring to be done, X-ray equipment to be installed, a girls' school to be remodeled into a hospital, crates unpacked and equipment to be repaired that had been damaged in shipment. Nevertheless, the men of the Utilities Department started in with bulldog determination and 10 days after arriving the work had progressed to such a degree that the first patient could be cared for.

Many new and puzzling things blocked the way of the Department from the start, including four 30 K. W. electric diesel driven generators, which were to be used as an emergency source of power, a type which no one had ever seen before. This

difficulty was overcome in short order, however, and the generators were installed without one slip. The next problem was that of labor, for the Utilities Department depends entirely on civilian help, supervised by our own skilled non-coms and soldiers. In Morocco, almost the only labor available was Arab which proved almost as bad as not having any. But a few skilled French workmen were available, which helped to a very great extent. The next difficulty was the water supply, for at certain times of the year water was almost non-existent. On several occasions, it had to be hauled from the ocean in G.I. cans and any available containers that could be found. During the 15 months stay in French Morocco, the Utilities Department made file cabinets, file boxes and stoves; repaired electrical apparatus and radios; improvised on orthopedic aids, built desks, N. P. wards and animal farms and accomplished innumerable jobs too many to mention at this time. Better than 3,500 work orders were completed during that time, plus emergency calls for plumbing and electrical work. When the time came to pull out of Casablanca it was up to the Utilities Department to box and crate 350 tons of equipment, which filled one entire Liberty Ship and part of two others.

Upon reaching Rome, the Utility Department with help from the 338th engineers, was again confronted with remodeling a building which had once been a convent, into a modern hospital. The work this time was even more difficult for the building was cut up into numerous sections and each section had to be treated separately. The water supply was pumped from an ancient Roman aqueduct located 2 miles from the hospital. A gasoline driven 4-inch pump was installed which forced the water into four 20,000 gallon tanks on the roof of the building. This was the first time in 18 months overseas that adequate water was available for the hospital. A very serious problem arose due to the lack of sufficient electric power. Although we had four 30 K.W. generators and later five, this was barely enough to carry the tremendous load the hospital required—on an average of 85 pumps. The capacity output of the generators was only 87, which was just barely enough and which threw a tremendous strain on them. This strain caused many failures in the mechanical part of the system and it was always nip

and tuck as to whether the hospital would be without power or not. This heavy load was caused mainly to the faulty and worn Italian wiring throughout the building, and on wet rainy days many sections of the hospital had to be without electricity to be sure the operating rooms had sufficient.

Here again the plumbers were worked to capacity, for if anything the Italian plumbing was worse than the French. Many toilets, showers and washbasins had to be installed to carry the load of the numerous patients being taken care of. We were quite fortunate in obtaining a crew of Italian craftsmen who were equal to any task which confronted them and without their aid the hospital would have been very seriously handicapped. Again these civilians were surprised by our own skilled personnel. Sgt. Manion had charge of the carpenters and painters, Sgt. King supervised the plumbers, masons and welders and Sgt. Scott had charge of the electricians. All in all the work was performed in a most admirable manner and all concerned should be highly commended.

Just at Christmas time word was received to pack up and be ready to move to Bologna, Italy. Here again the Utilities Dept. dropped everything and went to work with a will, crating this time approximately 450 tons of equipment. An estimated 300 2½ ton trucks were required to haul the equipment from Rome over the moun-

tains to Bologna. The work was finished on schedule but a change of plans caused a long delay in the move and it wasn't until April 29, 1945 that the advance party cleared Rome on the way to Bologna.

The Utilities Dept. again took the initiative in the setting up of the hospital for it was included in the advance party. Upon reaching Bologna, it had once more to remodel a building, this time an engineering school, into a hospital. Windows and screens had to be put in, concrete laid, steam piped into the operating room, generators and plumbing installed and a source of water found. Again aid was furnished by a detachment from the 338th Engineers. The water supply once more was inadequate, and a large 30 h.p. electric pump had to be put into the city water main, pumped through an automatic hypochlorinator and thence into a large 20,000 gallon concrete tank and two 10,000 gallon metal tanks located on the hill in the rear of the hospital building. Even with such an elaborate set up not enough water was available to supply the demands of the hospital. This time the electric power was adequate and only one generator was needed to carry the load, which averaged only about 7 amperes.

Maj. Herman Nathan was the first commanding officer of the Utilities Department, later followed by 1st Lt. G. B. Bowman.

Lt. G. B. BOWMAN

The Old Gang





Enlisted Men's Mess, Bologna

HISTORY OF THE MESS DEPARTMENT

by Lt. Beth Andrews, H.D.

The Mess Department of the 6th General Hospital was activated at Camp Blanding, Florida on May 15, 1942. The Mess Personnel was made up of farmers, mechanics, salesmen, store clerks, butchers, accountants, gas station attendants,—in fact everything except professional cooks. Most of them acquired experience in cooking and the serving of food after they joined the Mess Department. While in Camp Blanding, four messes were maintained, three for the enlisted men and one for the officers. During this training period, the Mess Officer, Captain George S. Jenkins, assigned the ratings so that a working organization could be formed. Tec/Sgt. Richard Layfield was in charge of all enlisted personnel of the Mess Department until August 1942, when Tec/Sgt. Leroy Schweihsburg assumed the responsibility. S/Sgt. Peter Gerardi, Sgts. Floyd Goltry, Francis Richardson and Joseph Borek were the mess sergeants in charge of the four messes. Even so the men received little practice in the function of hospital messes that involved the feeding of patients.

A few weeks before the unit left Camp Blanding, Lts. Margaret Murray and Beth Andrews joined Lt. Rita Donovan and were assigned as dietitians with the Mess Department. The dietitians were assistants to the Mess Officer for the planning and preparation of menus, special diets for the patients and for such other duties as the Mess Officer might require.

Upon arrival in Casablanca, immediate mess arrangements had to be made and these were of necessity on a temporary basis. The enlisted men were quartered in a cabinet work shop building, later known as the Moroccan Building. During this period a portion of the building was set aside for a temporary kitchen. On March 1, 1943, the enlisted men moved from the Moroccan Building into the detachment area, where a tent kitchen with a capacity to feed 500 men was set up. The Moroccan Building was converted into wards for enlisted patients. A section of the building was partitioned off and a kitchen and ambulatory patients mess was established. A cafeteria counter was built for feeding the enlisted patients on regular diets. A central tray service was established for bed patients in this building. In addition, several tables were set aside for serving orthopedic cases. The ambulatory patients were served from the original school kitchen, situated in the main building of the hospital. Additional dining room space for officer patients was built adjacent to the original dining room for officer personnel. Dishwashing and storage space was also added to the original kitchen. The bed patients in the hospital, except those in the Moroccan Building, were fed from the Officers Mess kitchen. Dishes and cold foods for each meal were carried to the ward in butler trays. Until the arrival of food carts in April, all hot foods were

sent to wards in miscellaneous containers. All dishes were returned to the Officers Mess to be washed, but as the ward kitchens were built, the wards assumed this responsibility.

On March 30, another mess hall for ambulatory patients was opened at the Parker House, with Sgt. Francis Richardson as mess sergeant. This mess with a seating capacity of 64, has served as many as 270 persons at one meal. On occasion, trays for bed patients assigned to Parker House were sent from this kitchen.

On May 1, 1943, Captain M. H. Hatch-
erian was assigned Mess Officer, relieving Captain Jenkins, who was assigned to the 30th Station Hospital. Within a few weeks, compartment trays were secured for the patients who ate in the messes, as well as in the wards. Arrangements were also made to supplement GI food with locally purchased products, such as eggs, lemons and fresh vegetables. In October, an ice cream machine with a capacity of 160 quarts per hour was secured. Ice cream was served daily to patients and personnel as long as the unit remained in Casablanca. When the orders came in May 1944 for the unit to move, there was a sigh, for the ice cream machine was too bulky to move. And so it was with regret, that the "fighting 6th" left the ice cream front.

For the most part, the Mess Personnel

received a rest from hospital duties from May until the latter part of June 1944. During the move from Casablanca to Rome, several delays enroute were made and through necessity, temporary kitchens were set up. Such an arrangement was made while the enlisted men and officers were staging at Goat Hill near Oran. However, the trip by water from Oran to Naples was a real treat for the Mess Personnel and for once there was no cooking to be done. Upon arrival in Naples, the men were sent on DS to other hospitals or allowed to enjoy short leaves.

The next cooking assignment for the Mess Department was in Rome at "Instituto Buon Pastore". A tent was put up for an outside kitchen for the personnel of the hospital until the building could be cleaned and the mess equipment unpacked, so that kitchens inside the building could be established. Too, the 56th Evacuation Hospital occupied several rooms that were later turned over to the Mess Department.

Due to the physical setup of the building, several changes were made in the operation of the Mess Department. For the first time since the arrival of the unit overseas, separate rooms were given to the butcher shop and bakery. Also a central dishwashing room which was run by Italian Alpine Troops, was used for the washing of dishes for the wards as well as the patients and officers messes. Tec/4 Andrew Asony was placed in charge of the butcher shop and with the assistance of Tec/5 Frank Salter and Pvt. O'Neill Le-Breton, did the meat cutting for the hospital. The bakery staff under the direction of Tec/4 Manfred Schultz and Tec/4 William Sands, both professional bakers, made pastries every day for the patients and personnel. While in Rome, the bakery was blessed with the addition of a large bake oven which enabled the bakers to produce a better quality product. The Detachment Mess kitchen under the supervision of the Mess Sergeant, S/Sgt. Francis Richardson, was set up in a prefab building outside the hospital building. An adjoining prefab provided seating space for 180 men to eat at one time.

The cooking for the patients was done in a large central kitchen that was formerly used as one of the kitchens of the institute. Several things were found in this kitchen, such as the light blue tile walls, the deep scullery sinks and the 50 gallon copper



2nd Lt. T. J. Corbell, M.A.C.
Mess Officer



Patients' Mess, Bologna

kettles, which reminded the mess personnel that this space had been a kitchen and not just another room that must be made to fit the mess needs. Steam was installed for cooking and to supplement the field ranges which would have been inadequate in number to cook the large amounts of food necessary to feed the patients.

The mess hall for patients was located in two rooms at the end of the building, so that the food was carried from the kitchen to the serving counter in 15 gallon containers. Two serving counters were lined up to allow two lines of patients to be fed at one time. Even with the average of 100 patients passing through the line every ten minutes, there were often delays in serving while dishes were washed and re-washed, and brought from the central washroom. While in Rome the peak load of patients was reached on October 5, 1945 when the mess department served 8,880 meals.

The officers and nurses after eating meals for three weeks in the hot sun with mess gear were happy to move to an inside mess with the kitchen adjacent to the mess hall. The officer patients were served in a separate mess hall, but the food was prepared in the officers' mess.

In November 1944, Captain Hatcherian received orders for temporary duty in the States and was later released from the Army. Lt. Larry Sparks was assigned as Mess Officer with Lt. Edward Bredl as assistant Mess Officer. Lt. Muriel Schechter, dietitian, also joined the unit in November.

There were many changes in the enlisted personnel of the mess department during November, for 13 men were transferred into other units and 17 men were sent in as replacements.

By the 22nd of December, all the patients were transferred to the 34th Station Hospital and a skeleton crew of enlisted men was kept to maintain the detachment and officers messes. The remainder of the mess personnel was placed on DS in other hospitals or on the hospital train until May 1945. Several changes were made in personnel from the time the hospital closed in December 1944 until it reopened in Bologna, May 1945. Lt. Edward Bredl, the assistant Mess Officer, received orders for rotation and was replaced in March by Lt. Thomas Corbell. All the dietitians, with the exception of Lt. Andrews who returned from the States in March, were returned home. With the opening of the hospital in May, Lt. Cynthia Holt ANC, was assigned to the mess department for six weeks until other dietitians on DS could be sent. When Sgt. Floyd Goltry who had been in charge of the officers mess, was sent home on TD in December, Tec. 4 Eddie Robakiewicz took over the job. Shortly after the unit arrived in Bologna, Tec/Sgt. Leroy Schweinsburg was sent home leaving S/Sgt. Jessie Smith acting as mess steward. About the same time, six men who had been with the unit since its early organization, returned to the States, namely Tec/4 Herbert Anderson, Tec/4 James Atnip, Tec/4 Clifford Barton, Tec/5 Mike Modriefsky, Pfc.

Lawrence Foshagar, and Pvt. Joe Borek. On 17 June 1945, Lt. Col. Hamilton, Executive Officer, became Mess Officer relieving Lt. Sparks, who was assigned to the Disposition Office. Lt. Genevieve Tyson, dietitian was also assigned to the mess department in June.

An advance party came to Bologna on April 29th to start the clean-up campaign for the opening of the hospital, in the building formerly occupied by the Engineering branch of the University of Bologna. The detachment mess, after a few temporary setups, was permanently located in two rooms which were cleared of wine kegs, rotting potatoes, hay and other debris left by the Germans. Within a few weeks additional seating space was added to the original mess hall which increased the capacity from 180 to 300 men.

On May 11, 1945 fourteen patients were served from the patients mess and by June 1, this mess was serving approximately 900 people. In contrast to the setup in Rome, the room selected as a kitchen was too small, dark and not easily adjusted to the needs of a patients' mess. Clearing and preparing this room for food preparation and serving, involved problems similar to those encountered in opening the detachment mess. The washing of trays, silver, pots and pans, baking of pastries, cutting of meat and routine cooking was done in one room. To relieve this crowded condition, additional washroom space was built which was adequate for the washing of

dishes from the wards as well as from the mess hall.

The hospital census was composed of patients from the allied nations in addition to German POW's. It was decided that the POW's would remain on the wards to eat, which meant not only that two menus were prepared, but also that large amounts of food must be transported to the wards. The production line idea was established for the serving of food to the wards. Each ward was assigned a food cart that was used to carry the food to the wards as well as the dishes and silverware before each meal. The Officers' mess was put on the second floor of the nurses' quarters, with an adjoining kitchen which was a workshop in the University. The beautiful view from the mess hall of the City of Bologna and the surrounding country even made eating spam more pleasant.

The task of feeding people thrice daily gets monotonous after awhile. For a meal that has taken hours to prepare is consumed in thirty minutes! But if one stops to consider the big overall job done over a period of time, the job becomes more interesting. When it is realized the vast quantities of food that Tec. 4 Paul Asker has brought from the ration dumps (the enlisted personnel and officers alone have consumed over 132 tons of fresh meat since coming overseas), one can see the tremendous job that is assigned to any mess department.

Lt. BETH ANDREWS.

Tasty Pastry Dept.





1st. Lt. Jacob Schiffman, M.A.C.



Capt. H. H. Fowler, M.A.C.

S U P P L Y

The Supply Department was responsible for the procurement, storage and issue of the supplies and equipment required for operation of the Hospital and administration of its personnel. The scope of this task necessitated a division of the Department into several sections, each of which had a specialized function.

The General Supply Section handled Quartermaster, Engineer, Signal, Ordnance and Chemical Warfare equipment and supplies. The operation of Unit Supply, the Baggage Room and Patients' Clothing Issue were also functions of the General Supply Section. Major Herman Nathan was in charge of the General Supply Section during the time that the Hospital operated in

Casablanca and for several months in Rome. He was relieved by Lt. Jacob Schiffman in September 1944, who continued in office until June 1945 at which time he was relieved by Lt. DeWitt Harkness. Tec./Sgt. James Exner was the senior non-commissioned officer of the General Supply Section. Sgt. Exner was assisted by Sgt. Harold Dahlborg in charge of the Baggage Room and the issue of patients' clothing. Sgt. Walter Sobecki was in charge of Unit Supply. Tec./4 Charles Davis was in charge of office administration.

The Medical Supply Section was responsible for the procurement, storage and issue of Medical Department supplies and equipment. The operation of the hospital

Medical Supply, Bologna



Linen Exchange was also a function of the Medical Supply Section. The Medical Supply Section was in charge of Captain Hilton H. Fowler who was assisted by M/Sgt. Chester R. Snyder, senior non-commissioned officer of the Supply Department. S/Sgt. Richard Poole was in charge of Stock Records, Tec./3 Charles Ford in charge of office administration, Tec./3 Rudolph Keahl, Tec./4 Emory Sanders, Cpl. John Gilligan and Tec./5 Charles Waddell were in charge of stock arrangement and storage. Sgt. Harold Brengel operated the Linen Exchange assisted by Pfc. Harry Simon, Pfc. Robert Anderson and Pfc. Eyle Fauchald.

Arrival of the Hospital at Casablanca in February 1943 was a logical starting point for a history of the Supply Department. At that time the mystery surrounding overseas supply procedure was complete, precedents were lacking and confusion was rampant. The shipping plan for the Hospital's equipment brought us our first difficulties. 50% of our equipment had preceded the organization overseas by a month. The receiving agency had arranged for its storage in the basement of the building that we were to use as a hospital. To say that the place was packed solid, would not describe the situation. The absence of a master packing list (it came several weeks later) made identification of box contents impossible. Unpacking cases, listing contents, building shelves for stock and answering questions for service chiefs proceeded simultaneously and at a rapid rate during the first few days after our arrival. A difficult situation was aggravated by seasonal rains of torrential proportions which flooded our working space in the basement of the building. A few days after our arrival the state of affairs was made more complicated when word was received that another section of our equipment was being unloaded at the docks. It was then that the rush really started. Trucks shuttled constantly between the docks and the Hospital. Supply personnel was spread thin over the wide area to be covered—some at the Port—others receiving and unloading and the never ending unpacking went on. At the height of it all word was received that several hundred beds and miscellaneous other equipment were arriving at the docks in Rabat and Port Lyautey. The imminent arrival of patients increased the pressure on all concerned and, although it appeared impossible, somehow we managed to deliver enough

equipment and supplies to the services and the Hospital commenced to operate. After the first month things subsided to an extent and we took time out to add up the score. The figures revealed that 75% of our equipment had been received up to that time. The balance came in gradually over the weeks that followed. Late in May 1943 the equipment and supplies of the Hospital were considered to be substantially complete.

During the summer and fall of 1943 a great deal of experience was gained in the field of supply. This experience was to stand us in good stead when in January 1944 the Supply Department of the Hospital was called upon to take over the operation of the Atlantic Base Section Medical Depot. At that time the Base Section was considered to be on the verge of closing. The expansion of the ATC Terminal at Casablanca changed the picture considerably and the Medical Depot business boomed. Personnel of the Department rose to the occasion and the medical supply requirements for 20,000 troops were met.

An account of the Supply Departments activities would not be complete without some mention being made of the Department's participation in the process of moving the Hospital from one station to another. The supplies and equipment of the Hospital at the time of movement from Casablanca to Italy amounted to an approximate 500 tons. Supplies and equipment acquired when the Hospital reorganized to a 2300 bed installation brought the figure up to an approximate 600 tons. Personnel of the Supply Department participated in the loading and unloading of freight cars, trucks and ships over the devious route which took us from Casablanca to Oran, Naples, Rome and Bologna. At the end of each move the familiar process of unpacking, checking supplies and trying to beat an opening deadline were resumed. We developed methods for distributing equipment to the services and departments of the Hospital with a minimum of delay. Each move found our system working a little more smoothly.

Although the Supply Department has experienced its share of difficult days, the writer feels that the record of the Department is a satisfaction to all concerned and the value of teamwork and unselish devotion to duty has been well demonstrated.

CAPT. H. H. FOWLER



1st Lt. Amon D. Roberson, M.A.C.
Information and Education



1st Lt. Walter Singer, M.A.C.
Special Service

SPECIAL SERVICE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The primary function of Special Services is to maintain a high state of morale among the troops of the command. In maintaining this high state of morale, Special Service must provide a multitude of recreational and amusement facilities. These facilities must cover every phase of off-duty relaxation for the soldier. As is so often the case, the Special Service program grew gradually as one facility after another was added. Not so much by any one activity, but by the combination of all, was an adequate program developed.

The promotion of intra-mural sports and games provided recreation during off-duty hours. While overseas, intra-mural sports were in progress according to the season in which they were popular. As well as the intra-mural program, a varsity program was in constant operation. The varsity "Yankee" baseball team was NATOUSa world series champions of 1943. As well as being baseball champions of NATOUSa, the "Yankee" softball team were ABS champions of the same year.

Every type of entertainment that was

Football Practice





"The Yanks"

The Yanks in Action



available to overseas troops was procured through Special Service. Popular movies from the States were shown as often as possible, usually four or five nights weekly. U.S.O. Camp Shows and all other types of touring entertainment were procured for the men as often as possible.

Dances for the men were arranged at every location of the hospital. Local civilian girls volunteered to attend the dances. These dances were held semi-monthly. Music was furnished by the hospital orchestra. The dances were among the most popular of off-duty entertainment held for the men.

A Library with more than 700 books was maintained throughout our stay overseas, placed in a Reading and Writing Room where quiet prevailed at all times. The Room was always a popular place with the officers as well as enlisted men.

It's a real game



INTRA-UNIT ACTIVITIES

Intra-unit activities were perhaps the most important phase of the Special Service program because more personnel were actively and directly concerned. For that reason all types of intra-unit activities were encouraged to the utmost.

Heading the list of intra-unit activities were the Soldier Shows presented by the personnel of the hospital itself and used for the entertainment of all personnel. Their mission was to provide entertainment and offer a means of relaxation and enjoyment to the soldier and at the same time create a feeling of pride for the organization. Soldier Shows were usually presented in conjunction with a celebration. The first show presented was "Mad-caps Of August" as the climax to the Hospital Day celebration on the 1 September 1944. The second show presented was "Beauts and Brutes" on Thanksgiving Day, 24 November 1944. The third show was "6th General Varieties" and was part of the Christmas program. These shows always aroused a great amount of interest among personnel of the unit. All the shows were of the Variety type with blackouts and short skits. These were written to concern the actions of the various departments within the hospital. This type show was used because in addition to its entertainment values it utilized a crowd of performers and the various specialties of each individual could be more advantageously displayed.

Undoubtedly the most outstanding event sponsored by Special Services during the overseas duty, was the winning of the NANTOUSA world series in 1943.



The Library

At no time during our stay overseas, was Special Service inactive. Intra-mural sports, movies and various types of stage shows were presented and arranged. Regardless of the problems confronting Special Service, some solution was always reached so that the much needed recreation for the men was procured or set-up.

Our brief stays in the various staging areas presented a unique problem, because our length of stay was indefinite, necessitating decisive action and prompt dissemination of information regarding special service activities available to the men. Baseball and softball games were arranged. Movies were shown as often as possible and every effort was made to help the men spend their few off-duty hours pleasantly.

Sight-seeing tours to the various cities of interest that were within driving distance of the hospital were arranged. Over ninety per cent of the enlisted men took advantage of these trips. In North Africa trips to Mazagan and Rabat were sponsored. In Italy, trips to the various places of interest in and around Rome and trips to Venice were arranged. These trips were usually made weekly with about fifty men making each trip.

Home of the "Yanks"



We won the tournament in Algiers





**Come on Fellows, "Wake Up"!
Orientation Class in Bologna**

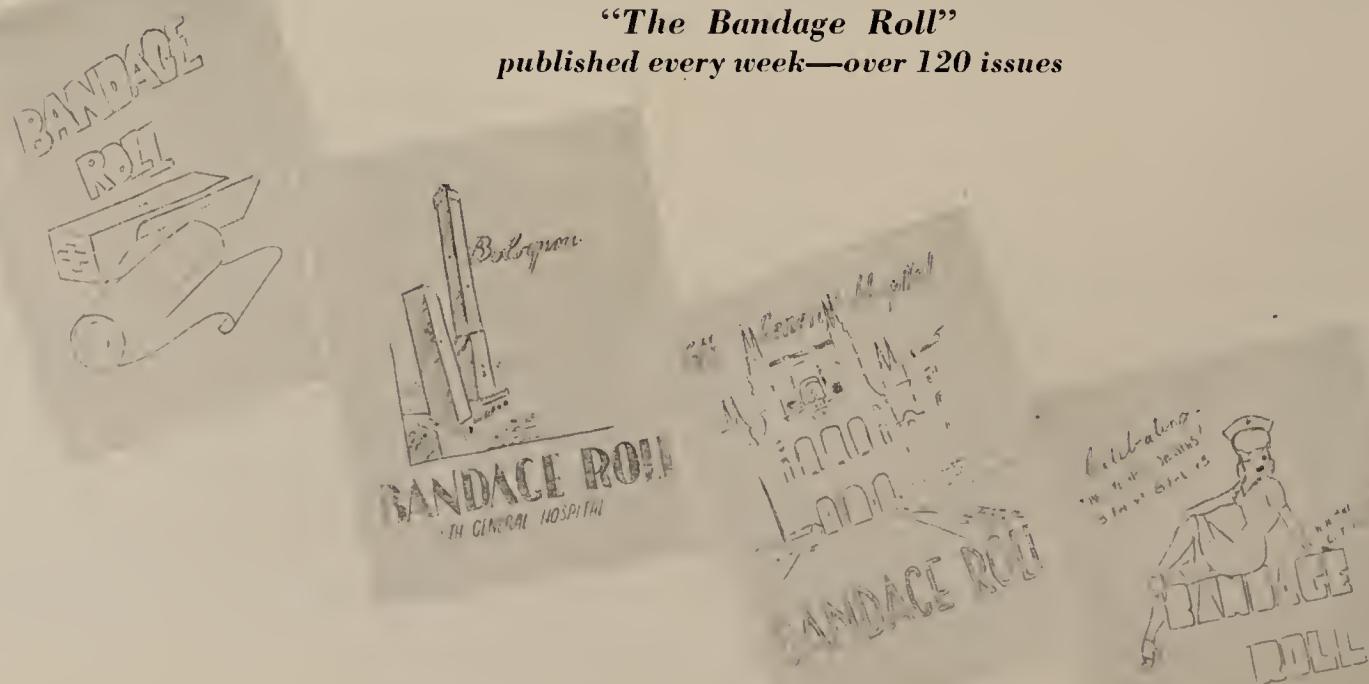
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

"The term 'information and education' embraces orientation, information, education, research on factors affecting morale, and related morale activities. The director of the Information and Education Division is charged with the planning, production, dissemination, and supervision of materials and programs for the information, orientation, and nonmilitary education of troops and with research on troop attitudes, in order to assist commanders in maintaining a high state of morale".

One of the better known activities of the Information and Education office has been the publication of the unit newspaper, "*The Bandage Roll*". It was begun in Casablanca by Lt. Singer in April, 1943.

At Buon Pastore in November, 1944, with S/Sgt. Leonard Katz serving as editor, the paper expanded to ten pages. One of the outstanding features of the "*Bandage Roll*" has been its editorial page. Since the first editorial by Colonel Goethals, some forty officers, nurses, and enlisted men have written for this column. Much credit for the success of the paper should go to its editor, T/5 Ralph Cook, and his staff, Pfc. Eddie Tatusko, Sports Editor; Pfc. David Harrold, Business Manager; Pfc. Eddie Hollow and Pfc. James Stiger, artists; and Pvt. Robert Johnson, typist. Lt. Edna Hurd, ANC, made splendid contributions to the "Bit o' Verse". Chaplain Parker and Chaplain Boland sustained the "Chaplain's Corner". And, of course, the "Roving Reporter" and the "Tattler" are to be congratulated for a neat bit of snooping.

"The Bandage Roll"
published every week—over 120 issues





KELLEY'S COMET

"Kelley's Comet" was the commonly accepted designation during the spring of 1945 for U. S. Hospital Train 42 A-1, this last name being applied with reference to the caliber of its crew rather than to its speed or number of trips.

In response to an urgent appeal for operating personnel, a hand picked group of 6 nurses, 3 officers, and 37 enlisted men left Rome 17 January 1945 to take over the train in the desolate freight yards at Leghorn on the same day. Eager to tackle our new assignment we worked feverishly to have the train ready within 48 hours for the anticipated daily runs between the front and Leghorn, or perhaps even as far as Rome. But during the 5½ weeks which elapsed before our first trip, our hopes of active participation in the war became shattered.

During this whole assignment we made only 5 trips with patients; 2 between Montecatine and Leghorn; 2 between Pistoia and Leghorn by the way of Florence and Empoli; and one long cruise from Florence to Naples with wounded Krauts. On all these missions the crew performed admirably; patients were grateful for the excellent chow, particularly the chocolate pudding; and the train commander had nothing but praise for Sgt. John, old "banana nose", and their teams who trans-

ferred all those patients without the loss of a single blanket.

The fact that the rails under the cars became a little rusty is not an indication that we found time hanging heavily on our hands. Mornings we always kept busy cleaning the white woodwork, washing windows, or rearranging our equipment in those small compartments to meet the critical eye of the train commander. And then there were daily calisthenics, drill, and volley ball games with the old battle cry, "Let Hanson take it!" The chatter on those occasions between O'Connell and our friendly neighbor, "Bloke", was alone enough to keep spectators fascinated. Afternoons usually were devoted to orientation courses, routine chores on the train, athletics, or just plain "fatigue". Only the danger of land mines in the surrounding community deterred the C. O. from taking his men on some of those ten mile strolls of his. For some strange reason the nurses were the only ones who got much practical experience in driving the locomotives.

Our train being the unofficial "6th General, North" we enjoyed visits from many friends. Some came for one of those delightful evenings of song and games at the "Roundhouse"; others ventured to spend the night on our comfortable ward beds despite the danger of a terrifying dream of impending disaster when disturbed by an ear-splitting blast from a train whistle let go by some rascal driving an engine on a nearby track during the early morning

All Aboard



hours. Fortunately there was only one guest aboard on that Naples trip when a sudden stop of the train at a mealtime swept most of the officers and their trays into a pile on the floor of their dining salon. Geezele Beezle! What a shampoo Betty had with that juicy mixture of stewed tomatoes, beef stew, and crushed pineapple! Rap's custom of emptying his tray of frankfurts and sauerkraut into his lap whenever he put on a clean pair of pinks was mere child's play compared with that mess. But accidents happened rarely; and table service by the immaculate Pasquale and Ignatus D'Vanchenzo usually was above criticism.

Except for the frequent smoke screens

put down over the port at night, and for the racket of the occasional ack-ack barrage whenever the Jerry reconnaissance planes got too bold, we experienced little of the actual war. Yet for many of us that assignment on the train was a memorable occasion. Our existence in those cramped quarters afforded an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted with people we thought we had known before. For the cooperation of all hands in the successful completion of our assignment, the train commander will be forever grateful.

S. B. KELLEY,
Major, Medical Corps.

The "Crew"





"Madam"



The Porch at Buon Pastore



The Pause that Refreshes, at "78"



Just before the Cocktail Hour at the Chalet Breton

THE SIXTH HOSPITAL OFFICERS' CLUB

It was soon after our induction in May 1942 that we realized the need of a 6th General Officers' Club to promote fellowship and unity within the organization. At Blanding, with such delightful spots as the Casco Club available for our use, it was impracticable for us to have a club house of our own, particularly since we expected to move each week to foreign lands.

Yet the Club was by no means inactive during this period. It sponsored farewell parties even in those days to members of the unit who were snatched away unexpectedly. There was no one better qualified than Heinie to make a departing member realize that he would be missed. And the Club arranged that memorable Ether Day celebration when Taylor, as "Col. Fish", delivered the main address which I believe never did have a subject, and when Holland explained so graphically the significance of our unit insignia. Then came the famous Halloween Party on the beach where some rascal spiked the innocuous apple cider. At Christmas, the officers' club helped us all through the day with its gay decorations of holly and ribbon in the mess halls.

Once we landed in Casa the Club really

began to function. While the treasurer stayed up nights to balance the accounts, Lang toured Morocco in that carriage of his and Lowry worked on the natives for a villa of our own. The "Staff Room" at 78 Mers Sultan was the result. Grantley's excellent murals alone should make this a center of interest in Casa for many generations to come.

We all have happy recollections of "78". Promotion parties, song fests, wedding receptions, Madame's steak dinners, Bartlett's informal Thursday evening dances with "Hooray, hooray....." and other ditties, will all be long remembered. Call Casa the "Ice Cream Front" if you will, but those were the days—socially.

At the Buon Pastore in Rome, the beautiful porch, reception room, and library, which at first seemed ideal for an Officers' Club, soon proved unsuitable. Enjoyable relaxation by hospital personnel in the midst of the sick and wounded was deemed a little out of place. Until most of the patients were discharged, then, we were obliged to turn to the hot spots in Rome for dancing. The Halloween Party at the pretentious villa of Dr. Mecheri, with entertainment by Mo Parker's troupe

Kelly Attempting to Overcome Some Tough Sales Resistance



Camera & Kranes with Lowery Davenport



Maj. Short, Kelly & Kranes Relaxing in Venice. (Inset "Faxo")



Col. Rogers

of Twink and Wink, Garbi and others was a hectic affair for those who ran it, but memorable, at least, for others. During the preparations for the "Open House" and wedding reception for Miss Willis on Christmas Day, Kelley learned a lot about the proper way to manage similar occasions at his own home by watching Sparks measure the "flavoring" for the egg nog in 5 gallon cans. An informal dance in the Nurses' Day Room on New Year's Eve concluded a busy holiday week; gaiety was on the crescendo until 0100 hours when the corridors were cleared. In Rome we missed a club house of our own and we lacked a spirit of unity, but we did enjoy the Officers' Club Snack Bar, created by Hatcherian, ably attended by Carlo and plentifully stocked with doughnuts, sandwiches and coffee at all hours.

Setting up the hospital in Bologna on

V-I day was a heart-breaking job, but it must be said that here for the first time the Club had a pretentious villa of its own. Sarris with his visions of gay dinner parties and dances was responsible for this triumph; but no sooner had he completed renovations on this requisitioned reproduction of a 13th century dwelling than he was detached for duty in C.B.I. Too bad; we old timers needed his enthusiasm in times of stress like these. But during this period of rapid turnover in personnel, those of us who were left in town were very grateful for a place of this sort to supplement our bar in the library of the Nurses' Quarters as a common meeting ground for better acquaintance with the new officers of the unit.

S. B. KELLEY,
MAJOR, MEDICAL CORPS.

POSTAL UNIT

The 764th Army Postal Unit has been a "satellite" unit assigned to the 6th General Hospital for the purpose of providing postal service. This service has included the receipt, forwarding, delivery and dispatch of mail, the issuance and cashing of money orders, the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes, the registration of letters, the insurance of parcels, and the provision of V-Mail envelopes.

The Post Office had been organized as follows: 1st Lieut. John J. Dunworth, the postal officer, had been charged with the supervision of and the responsibility for the operation of the Post Office. He is a Class "B" Agent Finance Officer for \$3,000 worth of stamps and stamp funds. Sgt. Max W. Greener, with 15 years civilian postal experience, has been the Army Mail Clerk and Tec./4 Augustine J. Matone, with 7 years civilian postal experience the Assistant Army Mail Clerk. They were bonded for \$5,000 and \$2,000, respectively, and had operated the Finance Section, being solely responsible for Money Order Funds. Tec./5 Thon had headed the Directory Service and the Dispatch Section, with such help as could be provided by the Hospital and as the situation required.

Because of the small size of the APU its personnel have always been taken care of by the Hospital for administration, supply, rations, and quarters. Since the T/O of this unit only recently authorized a motor

vehicle, the required transportation had always been provided by the Hospital for the receipt and dispatch of mail from and to the postal regulating station. In times when there was an extraordinary amount of mail received, the Hospital liberally provided assistants from the Hospital Medical Detachment and from the Detachment of Patients. For example in the last Christmas period three enlisted men from the Hospital Medical Detachment and ten patients from the Detachment of Patients were detailed to assist in the Directory Service and the Dispatch Section.

The presence or absence of patients in the hospital always had quite an effect on the extent of the Unit's operations. The most money order business and stamp sales occurred in the months of October and November of 1944. The record high number of 1,205 sacks received and 666 dispatched occurred in the Christmas period of December, 1944.

The APU joined the Hospital on the 1st of October, 1943, at Casablanca, French Morocco. The original personnel were 2d Lt. Oren R. Lyon, Sgt. Max W. Greener and Cpl. John H. Dow. Lt. Lyon was relieved by Lt. Dunworth in September, 1944, Cpl. Dow was returned home, and Tec./4 Matone joined in January, 1944. Tec./5 Thon joined in May 1945, but had been on special duty with the unit since August 1944.

POST OFFICE
APO 764



Chaplain S. B. Parker was born October 17, 1898 at Kinston, Arkansas. His parents moved to Ozark, Arkansas when he was still a child. Here he attended public school, and when World War I came along he enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard, and spent one year in France.

In 1920 he was married to Miss Autie Mae Hanshew, and at the same time entered college where he spent the next four years, and in 1924 he was ordained a Minister in the Methodist Church, and was assigned to the Church at Idabel, Oklahoma where he remained until 1933, when he entered the CCC as a Chaplain.

In 1930 he was commissioned a 1st Lt. Chaplain, in the Officers Reserve Corps, in which component he now holds the grade of Major, Chaplain.

In 1940 he was furloughed from the CCC, and placed on Active Duty with the armed forces, first going to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and later to Ft. Riley, Kansas, where he was still on duty when ordered overseas in April 1943 to join the 6th General Hospital.



Chaplain S. B. Parker, Major

C H A P L A I N S

In the summer of 1941 Father Carroll M. Boland, S. R., of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., was assigned to military duty because of the growing need of Chaplains.

Receiving his commission in Sept. 1941 he was assigned to active duty in November at Stark General Hospital in Charleston, S. C., where he met Cols. Lingely and Rogers of the then "paper unit", 6th Gen. Hosp.

When the 6th General Hospital was activated in May 1942 Chaplain Boland was transferred with four others from Stark Gen. and has been with the unit since that time.

As there was no Catholic Chaplain with Base Hospital No. 6, his boast is that he is the only Catholic Chaplain the unit has had in two great wars.



Chaplain Carroll Boland S.J., Capt.



Chapel in Rome

“Tell It to the Chaplain”

“Tell it to the Chaplain” is a familiar expression in the vocabulary of every G.I. If we have not availed ourselves of this satisfactory method of easing our minds, then it is our own fault, because the 6th General Hospital has been most fortunate in having with them, during their months of service, four Chaplains, ready and worthy of listening to us and giving advice and comfort in proportion to our needs.

One Sunday evening, early in May 1942, a part of our unit, together with our

families attended a dedicatory service of the 6th U. S. General Hospital. Chaplain Arnold was the preacher and all who were present realized the sincerity of his purpose, and listened intently to his words, each knowing in his heart that this Chaplain could be sought out as a friend, if, in a later time, one felt the need of a helping hand.

Later at Blanding, the others comprising this unit met and grew to know and trust him. The light in his office burned

late at night and was a comforting beacon to those who passed by, and even more so to those who sought him and shared a close bond of mutual friendship. We missed him greatly when at Casablanca higher Military Authority decided that he would be of greater service in another unit. We have kept contact with him and during his infrequent visits we have all shared in the happiness which comes with reunion with a well beloved friend.

Our introduction to Father Boland, the one Chaplain who has stayed with us from the beginning and is still with us, came at Blanding. The crowded Chapel on Sunday mornings, the popularity of Friday evening Novenas, the Chapel Socials, and the constant visitors to his office have all been indicative of the respect we felt for and the pleasure, as well as the Spiritual benefits, we were receiving from his fine character.

As we said good-bye to Chaplain Arnold, we welcomed Chaplain Steve Parker, who in his quiet unassuming way has gradually found his own place in our midst. At the same time came Chaplain Andrews, with his inimitable salute, and because of his obvious good-will toward his fellow man he burrowed his way into our hearts and lives. It was with real regret that we watched him go to another unit, at the time when we were stationed in Rome.

In our travels from Blanding to Casa to Rome to Bologna we have had the services and friendship of visiting clergymen and religious workers. Who can ever forget that delightful Irishman, Father Joy with his depth of wisdom and his unexhaustible supply of stories, the charm and gracious ministrations of the Sisters of



*Bethel Chapel
and Altar in
Casablanca*

the House of the Good Shepherd, Mr. Green, the very British Minister at the Church of England Chapel in Casa, or Miss Banks, who welcomed us so kindly to her little home on Rue Bugeaud. Who can doubt but that the direct and indirect contacts we have had with these fine people have been a powerful influence for good, both in us as individuals and in the unit as a whole? When we think of the Chaplain's Section it is inevitable that their assistants should take their places in our thoughts.

Who has ever passed thru to Father Boland's office without receiving a warming smile and cheerful greeting from (Gerry) Gerald Lucey, who has been assistant during all these months overseas.

Luther Pfeuster and Bill Kregeloh in Chaplain Parker's office, beside their regular duties as assistants, set up a real agency which included photographic service, watch repair and performed many unclassified services which added to the convenience of us all.

*Easter Mass in courtyard of hospital,
Casablanca*





Protestant Communion Service, Rome

**The Famous altar in
St. Maria Maggiore, Rome**



Chap. Arnold



Chap. Parker & Andrews



Christmas Nativity scene in Casablanca



Chap. Boland with all army equipment

A tribute to the Chaplain's jeep; might not be a bad idea, but that it would not have been so willing to serve us, had not Bill been at the wheel.

Our Chapels and places of worship have been many. The Evangelical Chapel at Casa was loaned to the Protestant group by Miss Frances Banks. This Chapel was built from her own resources and for the benefit of Spanish and Italian Protestants in Casablanca. During that period, Father Boland used the Red Cross Hut for his Services, an arrangement hardly satisfactory or adequate. But later at Rome, he and his congregation were rewarded for their patience, since the building where we set up our hospital had as its center a beautiful though simple Chapel. How could we not feel the dignity and sacredness of that which was in our midst? We passed through it many times a day on our way from the Medical wing to the Surgical, to X-Ray or to the mess hall. Many Protestant prayers were lifted up in the place

dedicated to the worship of a Catholic Faith. It is symbolic of the broadening of our concepts of God and our bond thru Him with our fellow man, that in the house of a family governed by a creed which was different from that of the other family, we yet knew and appreciated its sacred purpose and lifted our thoughts toward a Heavenly Father whom we believed to be common to us all.

Henry Ward Beecher once said that every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety, or with the handle of Faith. And it is with humble thanks and grateful hearts that we look to our Chaplains, who continue to help us increase and strengthen our faith in a better tomorrow. Surely the expression "Tell it to the Chaplain" must have originated in a very wise though unknown source.

By KATHERINE C. BARRETT,
ELEANOR B. PITMAN.



Josephine Barbour



Evelyn Maley



Karalyn Krakowski



Doris Deck



Top—Carolyn Evans



Bottom—Kay Johnson

AMERICAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

by Doris Deck

The first home of the Red Cross was on the third floor of the Hospital Administration Building in Casablanca, French Morocco. As this room was rather inaccessible to patients, the Administration saw fit to provide a prefabricated hut in the courtyard of the hospital grounds. This Recreation Hall was soon known as "The Hut". The Hut was well-equipped with a large library consisting of about two thousand books, leather-upholstered chairs, divans, tables, writing desks, and a radio for the entertainment of all ambulatory patients. The room was further decorated with a canary who warbled sweetly all day. In one corner was a small Craft Shop, and in the other corner a small officc. In the courtyard was a homemade stage on which concerts and entertainments were held. Scattered around under the palms were wicker chairs, parallel bars, horseshoe courts and a ping-pong table. An outdoor Craft Shop was operated under a canopy made from a salvaged tent.

The second home of the Red Cross was in a spacious ward on the first floor of the Hospital Building in Rome, Italy. The entrance hall was used as a Craft Shop and Music Room. The large room was used for the Library, Writing and Reading Room, and was equipped with comfortable chairs and divans, card and game tables, a radio and made a lovely hall for dances and receptions.

The third home of the Red Cross was on the third floor of the Hospital Building in the former Library of the Engineering School of the University of Bologna. The Library consisted of one large room panelled in beautifully-grained hard wood, with more than adequate shelving for our large

assortment of reading matter. On one side of the room were windows reaching from the floor to the top of the fourth story, which overlooked the City of Bologna.

Not all Red Cross activities took place in the Recreation Halls. Ward-visiting was an extremely important part of the Red Cross work. Bed patients were visited regularly to see if there was any service which Red Cross could perform. Such services included writing all letters for those patients unable to write their own; running various errands to the Post Office to send E.F.M. Messages, radiograms, purchasing stamps, mailing money orders and packages; sending Red Cross cables; giving out comfort supplies; distributing books and games; giving birthday, bingo and other parties on the wards; supervising a ward craft program; attempting to aid in the solution of personal problems which

Red Cross worker Doris Deck asst. patients in PX line. Rome





Patients relax in large reading room, Bologna

had arisen during the servicemen's sojourn overseas; directing inquiries to the proper agencies when they were outside Red Cross provinces; and talking to the sick and wounded.

In Casablanca the Special Service loaned the Red Cross a talented young artist who directed and encouraged patients to try their skill at clay-modeling and sketching. During the stay in that city, the "feature" of the weekly recreation program was a party given for a group of French girls by the hospital patients. In Rome, American girls employed by the U. S. Gov-

ernment and by other Red Cross units were regular guests at ward parties and dances in the Recreation Room.

As Casablanca was a Port of Embarkation, the Red Cross was busy distributing ditty bags and supplies needed by the patients for the voyage home. Another important task of the Red Cross was the shopping service. Due to the efforts of the Red Cross, servicemen so desiring returned to the United States with prized souvenirs of North Africa and Italy. Countless soldiers were wounded before they had the opportunity to buy a gift for the folks at home, and others had lost the gifts already purchased when they went into battle.

While in Rome the Red Cross was kept busy mailing packages for patients. These packages contained souvenirs of Rome, rosaries, medals, all types of religious mementos from the "Eternal City", and Purple Hearts, as our hospital was usually the first general hospital which the patient had reached.

The services, numerous and varied, offered by the Red Cross to patients, were open to our own Medical Detachment who availed themselves of these privileges.

Whenever aid was needed Red Cross strived to lend a helping hand.

Shampoo the Army way



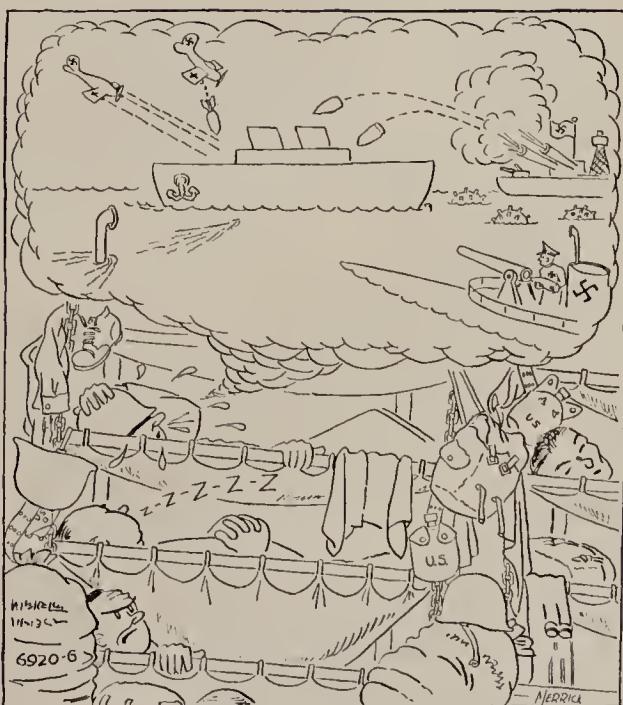


On Board the "Brazil"

On board the Brazil, the men were quartered in compartments P-4, P-6 and P-10. These compartments held approximately 165 men each and had been constructed by enclosing large areas of the promenade deck. The men slept on steel and canvas bunks four tiers high. The compartments were crowded but not uncomfortably so. Meals were served twice daily aboard ship. Breakfast was served from 0600 hours to 0900 hours and supper from 1600 hours to 1900 hours. Time passed quickly aboard ship since men were busily engaged in a program of calisthenics, abandon - ship drills, and amateur entertainment programs which often originated spontaneously. The crossing was uneventful, and except for a few days toward the end of the voyage, the sea was relatively calm. Very few cases of sea sickness were experienced. The first indication of our destination was given when a "Guide to North Africa" was distributed to everyone aboard ship after about a week on the water.

After a Voyage of 12 days on 19 February 1943, at about 1400 hours land was sighted, but it was not until 2000 hours, 20 February 1943, that the unit debark-

ed onto African soil at the port of Casablanca, French Morocco. The men were marched from the port to a large warehouse named "Marocaine Des Bois", which had once been used for storing lumber. There the men had a late supper of "C" rations and willingly went to bed on the floor of the building.





Casablanca—Looking down D'Amade to Port

Airview of Casa showing location of hospital



HISTORY OF DETACHMENT MEDICAL DEPT.

by Major E. B. Herwick

The Sixth General Hospital was activated May 15, 1942 at Camp Blanding, Florida, pursuant to a letter, Adjutant Generals Office A. G. 320.2 MR-M-GN dated 30 April 1942.

The original detachment (often called the "Original Contemptibles") was made up of 352 E. M. transferred to the Sixth from the 63rd General Hospital which was then in training at Blanding. Col. T. R. Goethals was the first Detachment Commander. When he assumed command the Detachment was billeted in pyramidal tents in area A-6 on the white hot sands of the camp.

On 17 May 1942, 1st Lt. W. C. Burrage, M. C., assumed command of the Detachment. On 23 May 1942, Capt. W. S. Worthy M. C., took over and Lt. Burrage became Assistant Detachment Commander. 78 men joined the detachment from Fort Devens on 27 May 1942, increasing the Detachment strength to 430 E. M.

The original members of the Detachment had been well trained, since when they were assigned to the Sixth they had already completed basic Medical Department Training. Immediately upon assignment technical training was initiated for all enlisted personnel. Basic and advanced courses were given in Operating Room Technique, Operation of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, General Surgery, Septic Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery and Urology for those men chosen for work on the Surgical Service. Men assigned to the Medical Service were given training in broad general principals of the diagnosis and treatment of medical diseases. Men were also chosen for the Laboratory, X-Ray and Dental Services and trained as specialists to assist the doctors in their professional duties.

Not all training was professional in nature. All men chosen for administrative duties were given on the job training at positions in Headquarters, Detachment Headquarters, Receiving and Disposition Office, Detachment of Patients and Registrar's Of-

fice. Supply Training was given those men assigned to the Medical and Quartermaster Supply Services. Many men assigned to the Mess Department were sent to Cooks' and Bakers' School. Field Training consisted of daily close order drill, road marches twice weekly, tent pitching and individual protection against chemical warfare and enemy aerial attack. Lecture courses were given in military courtesy, care of clothing and equipment, field sanitation and the customs of the service. Formal parades were held each Saturday morning and numerous weekly inspections of quarters, personnel and equipment were held.

On 9 July the Detachment moved from their tents into huts. Permanent latrine and shower facilities added to the comfort of all concerned.

2nd Lt. E. B. Herwick joined the Detachment and on 8 July 1942, was appointed assistant Detachment Commander, vice 1st Lt. Burrage relieved.

Capt. Henry Heyll organized a glee club and a drum and bugle corps from among members of the Detachment. The drum and bugle corps played for all weekly reviews held each Saturday on the parade ground.

On 1st September 1942 the organization celebrated Hospital Day with a ceremony held in Post Theatre with speeches by the chief of each service or department and an address by Col. T. R. Goethals and the commanding general of Camp Blanding.

During September and October enlisted replacements were received from Camp Barkley, Camp Grant, Camp Robinson, Camp Pickett and William Beaumont General Hospital. The Detachment strength was increased to 567 E.M. All men were readily absorbed by the organization and training continued apace until the 18th of December, when a wire was received from the War Department placing the Sixth on the alert. All leaves and furloughs were immediately cancelled. Organization equipment and supplies were packed and crated for shipment. Necessary clothing and equip-

ment for overseas duty was issued all personnel. Final inspections of records, personnel and equipment were held. On 20 December 67 E.M. were transferred to the 63rd General Hospital. The strength of the Detachment was then lowered to the 500 men authorized by Table of Organization for operation of a 1000 bed General Hospital.

A Happy Xmas was celebrated and carols were sung Xmas Eve around a gaily lighted Christmas Tree. Xmas day was marked by special church services and delicious turkey dinners in all mess halls. Blessings were asked before dinner by both Catholic and Protestant Chaplains. The Commanding Officer and Detachment Commander visited the detachment mess halls. As we bowed our heads in reverence that day little did we realize that it was to be our last Xmas on home soil for a long, long time.

Awaiting orders to proceed to a Port of Embarkation we learned that the Sixth was a part of Task Force 5995-DD.

On 2 January 1943, Staff Sergeant John A. Brzostowski was appointed First Sergeant. Usual mobilization duties in connection with the alert were carried on until 20 January, upon which date the Detachment boarded train for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Companies B and C entrained at 0630 hours into the train section commanded by Captain Sullivan. Company A entrained at 0900 hours into the section of the train commanded by Captain Heyll. The trip to the Staging Area was comfortable and uneventful. The food prepared and served on the train was beyond expectation in both quantity and quality.

The Detachment detrained amid snow flurries at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey between 1600 hours and 1800 hours on 21 January 1943. The men were well quartered in comfortable barracks with adequate heating, lighting, and latrine facilities. Busy days at Camp Kilmer were spent undergoing spot inspections by staging area authorities, receiving immunizations, and indulging in a modified training program. Lectures and training were given in embarking and debarking, military censorship, and military security. A program of dismounted drill, calisthenics, and cross-

country hikes was also carried out. Hikes in the snow and organized snow-ball battles were especially enjoyed by the men. One night-hike was conducted on a clear, cold night with the thermometer well below freezing. Barracks No. 726 was quarantined 12 days for measles. The stay at Kilmer was comfortable, the food good, and the terrain and climate much like that from which most of the Detachment had been called. The complaint registered most frequently about Camp Kilmer was that hoped-for-passes to New York City failed to materialize.

At 1145 hours 7 February 1943, fully clothed and equipped, the Detachment left Area 7, Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and marched by company to the railroad siding where they entrained for New York City, the Port of Embarkation. Packed lunches were eaten on the train. At about 1230 hours the Detachment detrained at Jersey City, New Jersey, and boarded the New Jersey Central Ferry. From Pier No. 13, New York Port of Embarkation, the Detachment embarked onto the transport U. S. S. Brazil, which was to be our home for the length of our coming voyage. About 0200 hours 8 February the Brazil weighed anchor and we were on our way.



Any Youse guys got a match?



**1st Lt. Frank J. Holmes, A. G. D.
Asst. Det. Commander**

**Major E. B. Herwick, M.A.C.
Detachment Commander**

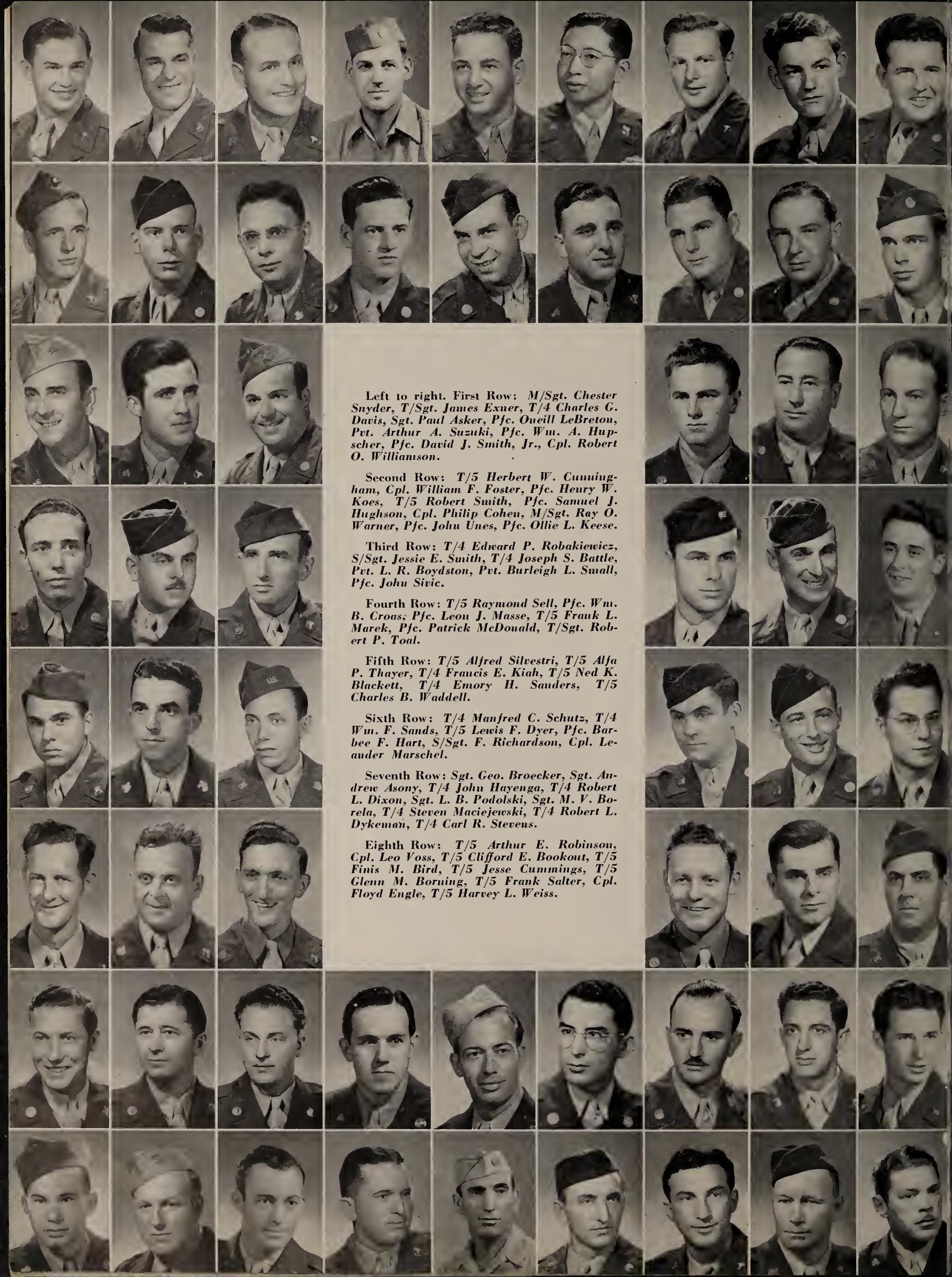
**1st Sgt. John
A. Brzostowski**

Area in Casa



Area in Bologna





Left to right. First Row: M/Sgt. Chester Snyder, T/Sgt. James Exner, T/4 Charles G. Davis, Sgt. Paul Asker, Pfc. Oueill LeBretou, Pvt. Arthur A. Suzuki, Pfc. Wm. A. Hupscher, Pfc. David J. Smith, Jr., Cpl. Robert O. Williamson.

Second Row: T/5 Herbert W. Cuuuiugham, Cpl. William F. Foster, Pfc. Henry W. Koes, T/5 Robert Smith, Pfc. Samuel J. Hughson, Cpl. Philip Cohen, M/Sgt. Ray O. Warner, Pfc. John Unes, Pfc. Ollie L. Keese.

Third Row: T/4 Edward P. Robakiewicz, S/Sgt. Jessie E. Smith, T/4 Joseph S. Battle, Pvt. L. R. Boydston, Pvt. Burleigh L. Small, Pfc. John Sivic.

Fourth Row: T/5 Raymond Sell, Pfc. Wm. B. Croas, Pfc. Leou J. Masse, T/5 Frank L. Marek, Pfc. Patrick McDonald, T/Sgt. Robert P. Toal.

Fifth Row: T/5 Alfred Silvestri, T/5 Alfa P. Thayer, T/4 Francis E. Kiah, T/5 Ned K. Blackett, T/4 Emory H. Saunders, T/5 Charles B. Waddell.

Sixth Row: T/4 Manfred C. Schutz, T/4 Wm. F. Sands, T/5 Lewis F. Dyer, Pfc. Barberie F. Hart, S/Sgt. F. Richardson, Cpl. Leauder Marschel.

Seventh Row: Sgt. Geo. Broecker, Sgt. Andrew Asony, T/4 John Hayenga, T/4 Robert L. Dixon, Sgt. L. B. Podolski, Sgt. M. V. Boerela, T/4 Steven Maciejewski, T/4 Robert L. Dykeman, T/4 Carl R. Stevens.

Eighth Row: T/5 Arthur E. Robinson, Cpl. Leo Voss, T/5 Clifford E. Bookout, T/5 Finis M. Bird, T/5 Jesse Cummings, T/5 Glenn M. Boruing, T/5 Frank Salter, Cpl. Floyd Engle, T/5 Harvey L. Weiss.



Left to right. First Row: *Pfc. Johnnie Hurta, Pfc. Virtor Difalco, Pfc. Gustave Simonson, Pfc. Joseph L. VonCannon, Pfc. Willie A. McPherson, Pfc. Earl C. Pearson, T/5 Joseph Madeo, T/Sgt. Henry R. Cramer, T/4 Harold E. Propst.*

Second Row: *Pvt. Wayne Lindner, Pfc. James Erickson, Pfc. Joe J. Hughes, Pfc. Ransom Mathews, T/4 John H. Lane, Sgt. Edward J. Rahn, T/4 Edwin L. Maw, T/4 Harry O. Scott, Pfc. Richard Jack, Jr.*

Third Row: *Pfc. Edward Peris, T/4 Lewis C. Gilmore, T/Sgt. Robert S. Melville, T/4 Robert H. Woodford, T/5 Merle V. Ringsrud, T/3 Solomon Bronstein*

Fourth Row: *T/5 John P. Ludden, Pvt. Joseph Blanchette, Pfc. Auther B. Hoag, T/5 Wayne G. Easterday, Cpl. John Melisenski, Pvt. Steve R. Philips.*

Fifth Row: *Pvt. P. E. Elsenscher, Pfc. Walter Hayes, Pfc. Carlos G. Mason, Pfc. Robert O'Connell, Pfc. Albert M. Skinner, Pfc. Chester Hein.*

Sixth Row: *Pfc. Clair Stowell, T/4 Francis S. Martin, T/4 John Pearson, T/4 Leonard Donaldson, Sgt. Raymond Gaughan, Cpl. Philip J. Hartung.*

Seventh Row: *Sgt. Mike Chunko, T/4 Edward T. Burns, Sgt. Almon Instrand, T/4 William Hustead, T/5 Kenneth C. Williams, T/5 Henry Weinberg, Cpl. H. Pat Dolan, T/5 Harold R. Bauer, T/5 Harold J. Stoff.*

Eighth Row: *T/4 Joseph M. Nowak, Sgt. Joseph Sajauskas, T/4 Craig A. Miller, T/5 Loyle E. Crosby, Pfc. Byron J. Whitt, Cpl. Orville Moritz, T/5 Richard O. Kramer, T/5 Peter Dziewit, Pfc. Nelson VonHedt.*



Left to right. First Row: Pfc. Elwin H. Morgan, Pfc. Robert Hockberger, Pfc. Joseph E. Corri, Pfc. Gustine Sender, Pfc. Walter S. Szostak, Pfc. George DeBoe, Sgt. Jesse W. Stacy, Pvt. Martin Hensher, Pfc. Lester Gadova.

Second Row: Pfc. Alfred Burke, Pfc. Dan Becker, Pfc. Paul W. Doran, Pfc. Albert R. Williams, Pvt. John Michaelis, Pfc. Frank Polushny, Pfc. Lawrence H. Stankowski, Pfc. Albert F. Natoli, Pfc. Mattie Royer.

Third Row: Sgt. Lonnie L. Pullian, T/4 John F. Stack, Pfc. Frank Molini, Pfc. O'Dell W. Stout, Pfc. Louis Soldner, Pfc. Edward R. House.

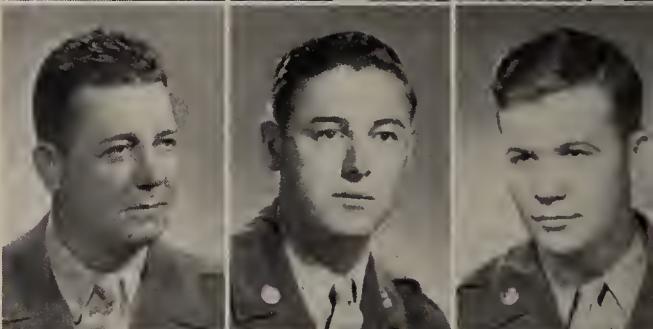
Fourth Row: Pfc. J. C. Lynch, Pfc. John Healy, Pfc. Charles E. Farley, Pfc. Homer W. Kingery, Cpl. Bernie Priebe, Pfc. Raymond Dillard.

Fifth Row: Pfc. Thomas Jackson, Pfc. Leonard Paselk, Pfc. M. L. Campolete, Pfc. Earl Bryant, Pvt. Paul H. Higuchi, Pfc. Samuel Markus.

Sixth Row: Pfc. Clellie Mohler, Pvt. Joseph E. Macejewski, Pvt. David McManus, Pfc. Frank A. Stumpo, Cpl. Angelo Alexander, Pfc. Manuel Korallis.

Seventh Row: Cpl. Guido H. Haataia, Sgt. Henry W. Bliton, Pfc. Steve Juryneec, Pfc. Walter Allen, Pfc. Chas. Folkkinen, Pfc. Harlan O. Pelley, Pvt. Hillard Staggs, Pfc. William Cox, Cpl. Edward Gosiorowski.

Eighth Row: Pfc. John Kowalewski, Pfc. Norman Wells, Pfc. John Haushofer, Pfc. James B. LaCook, Pfc. Marvin A. Henjum, Pfc. Amos W. Johnson, Pfc. Albert Gunnupson, Pfc. Elwood Keck, Cpl. Robert F. Parent.





Left to right. First Row: S/Sgt. Frank R. Lovell, T/5 Robt. S. Beaton, T/5 Robt. C. Schaller, Pfc. Lester Thompson, Pfc. Lloyd A. Hangen, S/Sgt. Noruan Karibian, Pfc. Dominic R. Sarli, Pfc. Chas. M. Allard, Pfc. Tom J. Cordova.

Second Row: Sgt. John F. O'Connell, Pfc. Eli Pinsker, Sgt. Edgar DeSousa, Pfc. Joseph Baron, Pfc. Harold N. Granne, Pfc. A. W. Hurley, Pfc. Henry Steiger, Sgt. O. Robert Olsen, Pfc. John P. Paulauska.

Third Row: S/Sgt. John H. Piper, T/Sgt. Leonard Tanule, Pfc. Benjamin M. Smiley, Pfc. Wm. H. Stracener, Pfc. Jack Hollan, Pfc. Robert C. Shaw.

Fourth Row: T/5 Robert H. Jackson, T/5 Thomas Parker, S/Sgt. Alfred J. Rutecki, T/4 Frederick L. King, T/4 John Miskowiec, Pfc. Wilfred H. Ware.

Fifth Row: T/5 Melvin Lund, T/5 Joseph A. Gudelis, Pfc. Anthony Calarco, T/5 Efanio B. Patino, Pfc. Joseph F. LeSage, Pfc. Wilson Chatela.

Sixth Row: S/Sgt. S. E. Manion, Sgt. Walter Sobecki, Sgt. Harold Brengel, T/3 Charles A. Ford, T/4 Harold Dahlborg, S/Sgt. Frank S. Miller.

Seventh Row: Pfc. Henry Piotrowicz, Cpl. Walter Kozik, Pfc. Mack I. Stroud, Pfc. Ben Parks, Pfc. Wm. H. Ott, Pfc. Frank Price, Pfc. Anthony Sganga, Pfc. W. W. Pelfrey, Pfc. John C. Hoobler.

Eighth Row: Pfc. James F. Jackson, S/Sgt. Glenn W. Giebel, T/4 Arthur S. Ridley, Pfc. Gordon Adamus, Pfc. Eyle Fanchald, Pfc. Harry Sinton, S/Sgt. R. Poole, Pfc. Arnold H. Moore, Pfc. Robt. Auderson.





Left to right. First Row: Cpl. Phillip Pirrello, Cpl. James A. Barba, S/Sgt. Brian J. Glancy, Pvt. Donald F. Penny, Pfc. Bruce Bryant, T/5 George N. Shallcross, Pfc. G. I. Veteto, Pfc. Conrad Fitzgerald, T/5 Francis P. Murray.

Second Row: Cpl. Frank Sikora, T/4 Francis Adamowich, Pfc. Elizali Auman, Pfc. Melvin R. Kugn, Pfc. Joe G. Gomez, Pfc. Charles E. Wolfe, Sgt. Alphonse J. Szcepansik, T/5 Rupert G. Bandy, T/5 Cody Stephenson.

Third Row: Pfc. Donald Burris, Pfc. John Sudduth, Pfc. Charles B. Lewis, Pfc. Hanley Howard, Pfc. Horace P. Wildman, T/4 Francis D. Voci.

Fourth Row: Pfc. William H. Mann, Pfc. Oren O. Jones, T/5 Gene R. Sheets, T/3 Gordon S. Hayner, T/5 G. S. Hubbard, T/5 Howard C. Rayfield.

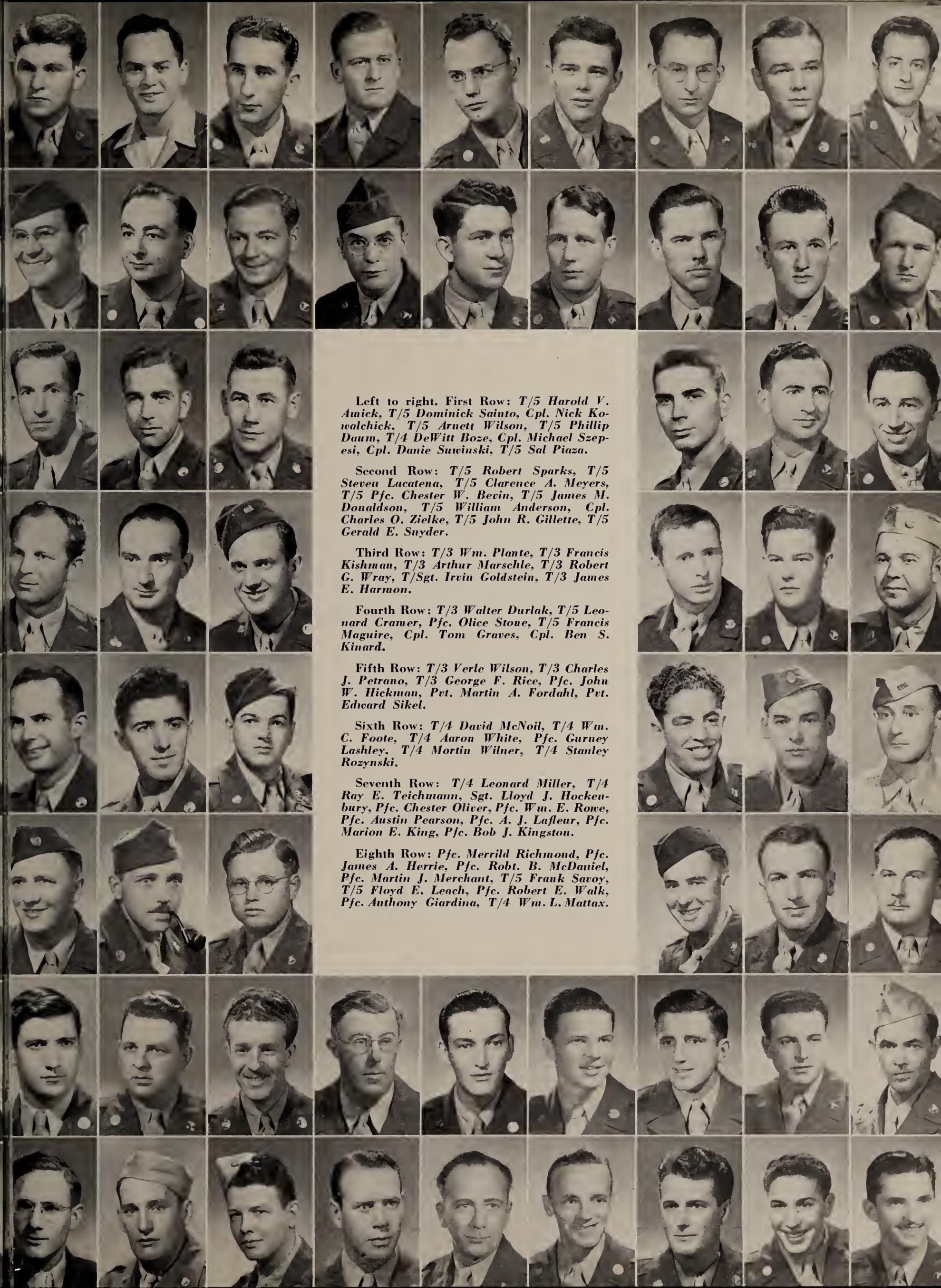
Fifth Row: Pfc. John H. Borris, T/4 Edward Shaner, Sgt. Francis Gill, Sgt. Henry Sherwood, T/5 David Weil, T/4 Paul A. Dunn.

Sixth Row: T/4 Ralph K. Harley, T/3 Karl J. Arabian, T/4 Joseph T. Jaskulaki, T/5 Levant G. Hall, Pfc. Richard J. Dunn, T/5 Leo Sciore.

Seventh Row: Pfc. Edward H. Kerr, Pfc. Donald A. Johnson, Pfc. William B. Flath, T/5 William J. Burrows, Pfc. Davis M. Durham, T/5 George E. Elliot, Pfc. Wm. Rayborn, T/5 Harold J. Billiet, T/Sgt. Victor U. Fritz.

Eighth Row: T/5 Edward J. Reeder, T/5 Francis Maguire, Pfc. Edward Conway, Pfc. John A. Works, Pfc. Robert E. Salzer, Pfc. Roland Torgeson, Pfc. Hay Hayden, Pfc. Louis L. Pryor, Pfc. Hilding R. Hanson.





Left to right, First Row: T/5 Harold V. Amick, T/5 Dominick Santo, Cpl. Nick Kowalchick, T/5 Aruett Wilson, T/5 Phillip Daum, T/4 DeWitt Boze, Cpl. Michael Szepesi, Cpl. Danie Suwinski, T/5 Sal Piazza.

Second Row: T/5 Robert Sparks, T/5 Steveu Lacatena, T/5 Clarence A. Meyers, T/5 Pfc. Chester W. Bevin, T/5 James M. Donaldson, T/5 William Anderson, Cpl. Charles O. Zielke, T/5 John R. Gillette, T/5 Gerald E. Suyder.

Third Row: T/3 Wm. Plante, T/3 Francis Kishman, T/3 Arthur Marschle, T/3 Robert G. Wray, T/Sgt. Irvin Goldstein, T/3 James E. Harmon.

Fourth Row: T/3 Walter Durlak, T/5 Leonard Cramer, Pfc. Olice Stone, T/5 Francis Maguire, Cpl. Tom Graves, Cpl. Ben S. Kinard.

Fifth Row: T/3 Verle Wilson, T/3 Charles J. Petruano, T/3 George F. Rice, Pfc. John W. Hickman, Pvt. Martin A. Fordahl, Pvt. Edward Sikel.

Sixth Row: T/4 David McNoil, T/4 Wm. C. Foote, T/4 Aaron White, Pfc. Gurney Lashley, T/4 Martin Wilner, T/4 Stanley Rozynski.

Seventh Row: T/4 Leonard Miller, T/4 Ray E. Teichmann, Sgt. Lloyd J. Hockenbury, Pfc. Chester Oliver, Pfc. Wm. E. Rowe, Pfc. Austin Pearson, Pfc. A. J. Lafleur, Pfc. Marion E. King, Pfc. Bob J. Kingston.

Eighth Row: Pfc. Merrild Richmond, Pfc. James A. Herrie, Pfc. Robt. B. McDaniel, Pfc. Martin J. Merchant, T/5 Frank Savoy, T/5 Floyd E. Leach, Pfc. Robert E. Walk, Pfc. Anthony Giardina, T/4 Wm. L. Mattax.



On 22 February 1943, 2nd Lt. E. B. Herwick was appointed Detachment Commander Vice Captain W. S. Worthy. On the same day, 2nd Lt. Walter Singer was appointed Assistant Detachment Commander.

The Detachment moved to a bivouac area in Parc Centrale on 1 March 1943. The men were quartered in pyramidal tents; cots and British mattress pillows were used conveniently as beds. The first latrine facilities were "deep pits" over which Quartermaster boxes were installed. The kitchen and mess halls were set up in ward tents.

2nd Lt. E. B. Herwick was appointed 1st Lt., on 15 March 1943. During the month of March constant improvements were made in the bivouac area. Permanent latrine, shower, and kitchen facilities were being built by French and Arab labor.

2nd Lt. Singer was appointed Special Service Officer on 21 March 1943. He immediately began a softball and baseball program and entered teams in the A.B.S. leagues. Dances and swimming trips were organized. An organization paper named "The Bandage Roll" was published. A fine athletic field was constructed in the rear of the bivouac area and was used constantly. The excellent Special Service program bettered the morale of the Enlisted Men and has continued to keep it at a high level.

A program to suppress malaria was effected late in April which consisted of two Atabrine tablets each Tuesday and Friday, and the use of mosquito nets while sleeping. When Atabrine was taken the third time the dose appeared to be too large. About 20% of the command were sensitive to large doses and stomach and intestinal upsets occurred. The program was immediately changed to one tablet four times per week. Later it was again changed to 1-2 tablet daily. Quinine was provided for all men truly sensitive to Atabrine. Preventive measures against malaria proved invaluable and of the 500 enlisted strength, only four cases appeared.

Right Column. Left to right: T/4 Walter M. Pederson, Pfc. Gordon R. Johnson, T/4 Geo. D. Martin, Sgt. Robt. Muggleton, T/5 Lee Roberts, T/5 Theodore F. Dyspolski, T/4 James C. Dumphy, Sgt. Marcus Rosenfeld, Sgt. Wilbur J. Riffle, S/Sgt. Joe DiFulvio, Capt. Karl R. Ottesen, S/Sgt. Harry Davidson, T/4 John R. Proudfoot, T/5 L. Pfister.

Left Column. Left to right: Pfc. Cecil C. Kelly, Cpl. Al Stemler, Pfc. Chester Young, Pfc. Arnold R. Cheek, S/Sgt. George N. Corbett, Pfc. Orville L. Hanson, Pvt. Peter P. Gerardi, Pfc. Leo M. Webb, Pfc. Walter E. Rollins, Sgt. David M. Harrold, T/5 Ralph D. Cook, Sgt. Robert C. Johnson, T/5 C. G. Lucey, T/5 William Kregeloh.



On 15 May, Colonel Goethals addressed the men at reveille, marking the first anniversary of the 6th General Hospital.

On 24 May 1943, the "Salle de Conference" building was procured for use as a day room by enlisted men of the Detachment. The building was furnished by the American Red Cross and by money from the Hospital Fund. Since that day it has been very well used for indoor recreation in the form of dances, card-playing, reading, and letter-writing, as well as other types of informal parties. The officers had named their club the "Staff Room". In a take-off from that title the men named their club the "Stuff Room". Also on 24 May 1943, Good Conduct Ribbons were awarded men of the Detachment by Colonel Goethals.

With the advent of the summer months, permanent kitchen, latrine, and shower facilities were opened in the bivouac area. Mess tents were floored and screened and pyramidal tents were provided with floors. A constant campaign was waged against flies and it proved successful in that intestinal disorders were kept at a minimum.

Through authority granted in General Orders No. 68, Headquarters NATOUSA, Staff Sergeant Clarence A. Roth was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on 1 August 1943.

Colonel Goethals awarded 149 Good



Place De France



A long way from home

Conduct Ribbons to deserving soldiers of the Detachment, at a meeting held in the day room on 26 August 1943.

1st Lt. E. B. Herwick was appointed Captain on 27 September. Five day rest periods for enlisted men began. During this period men were permitted to be absent from all duty and formations.

The "Yankee" baseball team won the North African World Series on 4 October 1943, when they defeated the champions of M. B. S., the "Street Walkers" in Algiers. Each player was presented a baseball autographed by General Eisenhower. A trophy made from an unexploded Italian bomb was given to the team for their achievement.



6th Gen. Hospital Bldg. in Casablanca



Atabrine, after evening meal



Detachment area, Casa

By 2 October, the strength of the Detachment had dwindled to 472 men due to transfers from the organization for medical reasons, over-age, or because of special qualifications.

Twenty-six replacements, all limited service, were received from the 1st Replacement Depot 7 November 1943. These men came at an advantageous time and have all been put to good use with services which had long operated understrength.

On 24 December 1943, Xmas Eve was celebrated by the Detachment by singing carols in the Club Room. A choir of Nurses and E.M., led the singing. Xmas trees vigorously decorated with make shift material and lots of crepe paper and tinsel

added color and atmosphere to the occasion. Santa Claus traveling via jeep visited the Detachment area sometime during the wee hours of Xmas morn. A Red Cross gift box containing cigarettes, playing cards, and candy was left at the foot of each man's bunk.

Our first Xmas overseas was made less nostalgic by a very special Xmas dinner of Turkey with all the trimmings, "topped off" with ice cream. The mess tents were dressed up by a committee of nurses. White table cloths, floral centerpieces and crepe paper decorations added color to the happy repast. The Commanding Officer and Detachment Commander visited the Detachment Mess Halls during serving of meals.

Our first New Years overseas was celebrated by a party at the Day Room. There we all thought we'd be home before another New Year rolled around.

On 2 January Tec. 3rd Grade Moore, Tec. 4th Grade Carter, and Tec. 5th Grade Elliott from the X-Ray and Dental Services journeyed to Marrakech F. M. to assist in X-Ray and Dental work on Prime Minister W. Churchill of England.

Detachment area showing old glory



Entrance to hospital, Casa





The Parker House gang

A big surprise came on 30 January when French Tanks, Armored Cars and a battalion of French Infantry rolled into Parc Centrale and dug in and set up machine guns in expectation of an Arab uprising. The entire Detachment was restricted during the period of unrest.

On 1st February the emergency restriction was lifted and the French Army moved away from our doorstep.

On 10th February and 27th March two groups of Italian P.O.W.'s totaling 41 men were received to be used for labor details in hospital operation. Services of Italians were satisfactory.

On 10th April the Inspector General held Annual War Department inspection of the hospital and the Detachment. A general rating of Excellent was received, except for a few very minor faults the hospital would have received a superior grade.

On the 19th of April a contingent of 30 Limited assignment enlisted personnel joined the Detachment. This group was supplemented by 63 Limited Service men on 22 April and 14 May. This group of men had been assigned the hospital for training and assignment if their work proved satisfac-

tory. The position of all General Service personnel became uncertain because General Service men were to be sent to replacement depots for combat training in a trade for Limited assignment personnel.

On 2nd May the first group of men from the Detachment was sent home on rotation. This group consisted of S/Sgt. Roth, Tec. 4th Ward, Pfc. Gorski and Pvt. Gunn. Rotation quotas were to continue far into the future.

On 7th May the Detachment struck camp at Parc Centrale and moved into the main hospital building of "Ecole De Jeune Filles". Five hundred soldiers were thus in a vacated girls school but the men much preferred their tents.

The Sixth closed station in Casablanca at 2400 hours the 24th of May. The hospital was packed and ready to follow the battle from positions nearer the combat zones.

A motor convoy making up the advanced party departed from Casablanca at 0700, 15 May. Our 57 Italian P.O.W.'s were relieved and transferred to another hospital and on 16th May we departed from Casablanca at 2205 hours via rail.

This trip was one of the most memorable experiences of the unit. We traveled in wooden boxcars which were plainly marked "40 hommes—8 chevaux" (40 men or 8 horses). We assigned 28 men to each car and at that the cars were so crowded that all men could not lie down to sleep simultaneously. Cold "C" rations were eaten for three days. It was corned beef hash for breakfast, pork and beans for lunch and beef stew for supper. The weather was warm and the African mountains and deserts were scenic. Although the trip offered the very minimum in comforts it was enjoyed by all. At times the train traveled so slowly that the men detrained and walked along side for exercise. There

Ay-rabs and Ay-rabess



A. T. C. Arab transportation corps





"Shades" of Africa

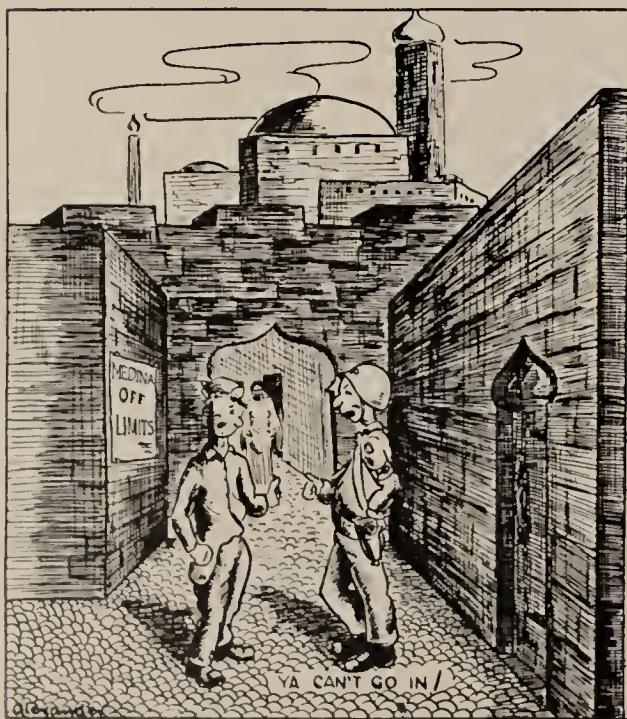
were no toilet facilities aboard the train. At stops there was a rush to the side of the right of way. Several times when the train started off suddenly a number of men were literally "caught with their pants down".

The Detachment arrived in Oran, Algeria at 2000 hours on 18th May 1944. The Detachment bivouacked at a desolate staging area commonly known as "Goat Hill." Here the men lived five men to a pyramidal tent. There was a constant wind so that it was impossible to keep clean because of swirling dust clouds which were in continuous movement. In spite of all

discomforts a training program of physical conditioning was initiated. Calisthenics, close order drill and cross country hikes kept every one busy and in good shape. When it rained the mud on Goat Hill became more of a nuisance than the dust. All meals were eaten out doors. After a few days the chow didn't taste quite right unless there was a bit of mud or dust mixed in.

The 102 Limited Service men who had joined us as replacements in Casablanca were relieved on 24 May and returned to the 1st Replacement Depot. The entire Detachment breathed easier, we were to remain a complete unit, there were to be no transfers to break up the harmony of our big family, at least not just yet.

The advanced party left Oran at 1330, 28 May by Liberty Ship. On 30 May at 1030 hours half way through a one hour period of drill the Detachment was alerted and told to pack their bags. On 31 May at 0730 hours the Detachment departed from Goat Hill by way of motor convoy. At Oran harbor 0830 hours we embarked onto the clean white Hospital Ship U. S. Shamrock. We sailed at 1000 hours. Perhaps it was the "luck of the Irish" after which the ship was named. Perhaps it was just plain good fortune but the trip across the blue Mediterranean was like a pleasure cruise. The water was calm, the weather



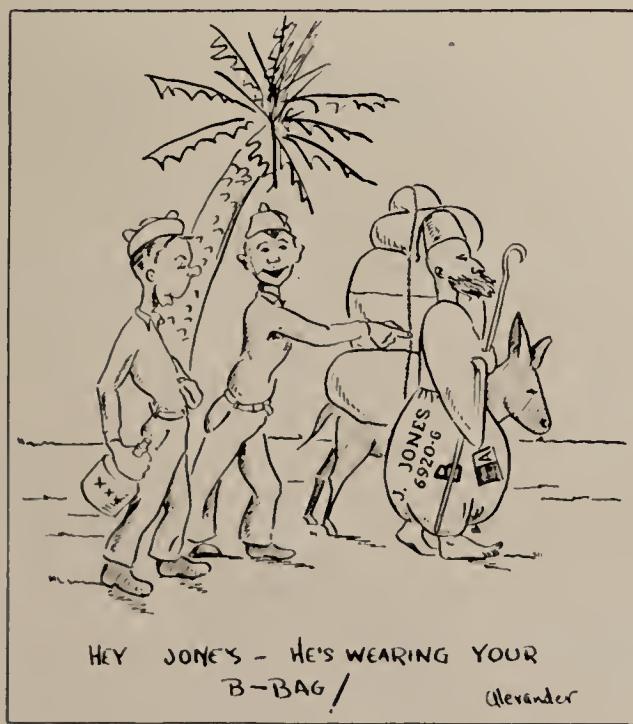


Time moves slowly in North Africa—The three wise men journeying to Bethlehem must have looked much like these modern day Arabs

was warm and clear and the ship was as clean as it could possibly be kept. On board the men slept on beds with mattresses, clean sheets and pillows for the first time since coming overseas. The food was excellent and there was lots of it. At night the ship was clearly and brightly lighted. The men enjoyed movies on deck. Spontaneous amateur shows for which took up more of their time. On 3rd June our pleasure cruise ended where we debarked at Naples, Italy at 1400 hours. From the port we travelled by truck to Maddaloni, Italy where we were to stage awaiting further movement orders.



These guys played the wierdest music . . . while this bird handled the cobra



Oriental Music





View of Old Medina

Parc Lyautey



Col. Gothels presenting Purple Hearts





An Arab water supply



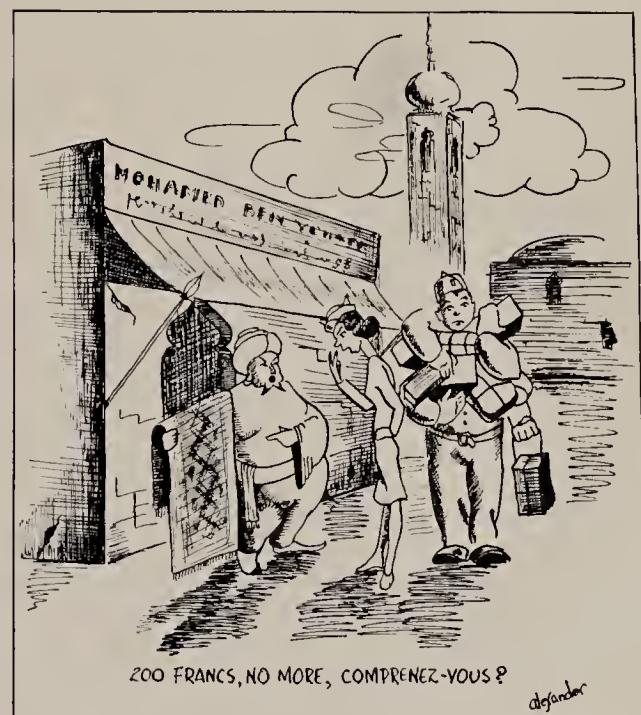
Left—Arab women doing their washing in dirty stream



Moroccan women



Two beauties return from shopping





The old gals get around



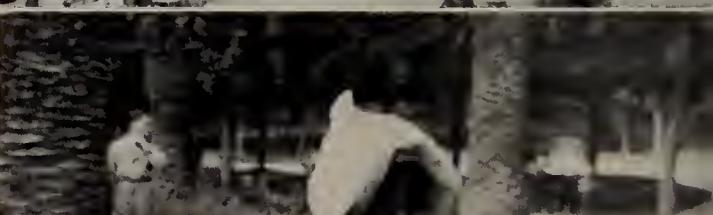
Characters of Casablanca

Left—top to bottom—

Rags and more rags
Arab street urchin
A native peddles
his wares

Right—top to bottom—

Native Water Girl
Drummer Boy
Arab Beggar



Arab Mother with child



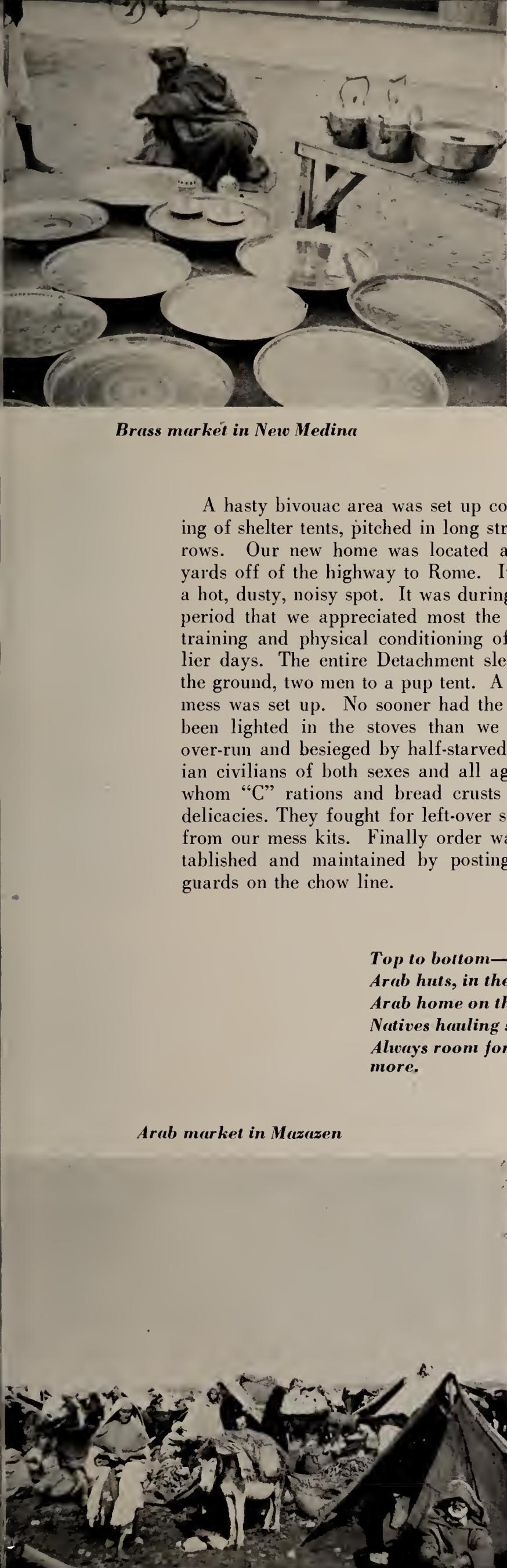


Brass market in New Medina

A hasty bivouac area was set up consisting of shelter tents, pitched in long straight rows. Our new home was located a few yards off of the highway to Rome. It was a hot, dusty, noisy spot. It was during this period that we appreciated most the field training and physical conditioning of earlier days. The entire Detachment slept on the ground, two men to a pup tent. A field mess was set up. No sooner had the fires been lighted in the stoves than we were over-run and besieged by half-starved Italian civilians of both sexes and all ages to whom "C" rations and bread crusts were delicacies. They fought for left-over scraps from our mess kits. Finally order was established and maintained by posting two guards on the chow line.

Top to bottom—
Arab huts, in the "Bled"
Arab home on the farm
Natives hauling sand
Always room for one more.

Arab market in Mazazen





*Top: Pleasant Memories—Ricks Cafe
Bottom: Post Exchange in Casa*



*Top to bottom—
Good old black bread
Our boys make a deal*



Arab fish market



The weird Horn Blower



*These boys dish it out
E.M.P.X.*



*Removing patients from train
in Casa*

The corner Tavern



And—do they like candy!



An Arab Doctor drawing blood

Moroccan farm scenes near Casa





The Sultans' guards



Getting ready for hospital day



An Arab village



F. D. R.'s and Churchill's meeting place, Casa.



*Won't you come into
my Parlor?*

Arab Guard at cathedral



The Sultans' tea room





*6th Gen. express racing across
Africa—towards Oran*





Harbor of Oran



Famous goat hill near Oran

Fort Santa Cruz and Monastery



Ready to depart from Casa





Farewell to Africa



*Al Jolson and Humphrey Bogart entertain at the 6th
The "Pleasure Cruise" aboard the good ship Shamrock*



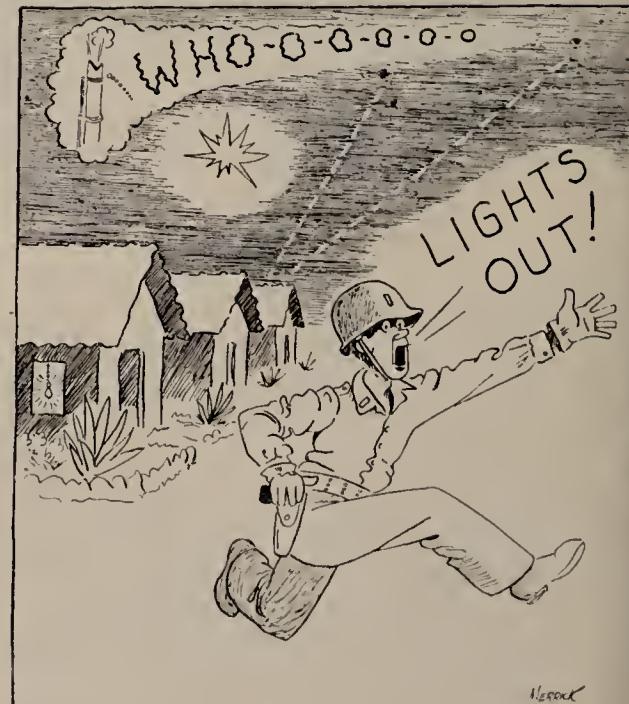


Mt. Vesuvius and Naples Bay



Bivouac Area near Maddaloni

Hunger line at Maddaloni



Herock



Air Raid over Anzio

The push for Rome was on. All hospitals in the Naples area were filled to overflowing with allied or enemy casualties. Emergency groups comprised mostly of medical and surgical technicians of men from the Detachment were sent to the 3rd, 37th and 45th General Hospital, the 78th Station Hospital, the 27th Evacuation Hospital and the 15th Medical Lab. Busy days spent in helping out other hospitals gave men from the professional services valuable experience which was put to good use in days to come.

On 4 June, Rome fell and we were happy

with the feeling that the Eternal City would be our next station. We were overjoyed to hear of the Normandy Invasion on 6th June. The war was moving fast, so was the Sixth.

The personnel and trucks of our transportation section arrived at Maddaloni on the 8th June, having crossed the Mediterranean in Liberty Ships and having experienced an enemy air raid while enroute. Several men from this group "passed the ammunition" to the ship's gunners during the raid.

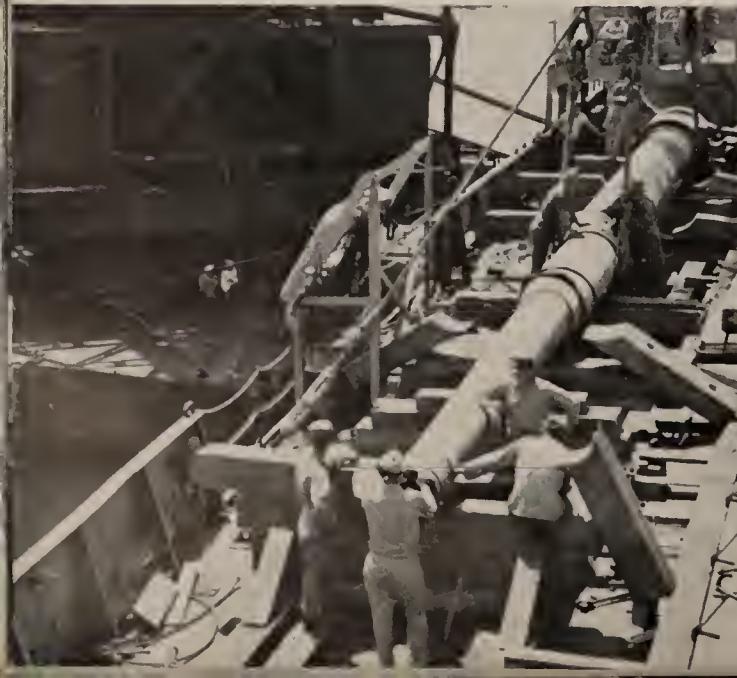


Air Raid—Bizerte



Evidence of the terrific fight for "the factory"

*Barrel of Anzio Express being shipped to U.S.A.
The barrel was 70 ft. long; an air conditioned
chamber housed the powder. The 150 man crew
lived in a six-car train.*



*Looking down the
big barrel*

*This tremendous German gun threw a 11.2
shell that weighed 575 lbs. Its effective range
was 35 miles; however, its maximum range was
said to be 60 miles.*





"Here they come!"



U. S. ack-ack crew at Anzio waiting for the Luftwaffe. They did not have long to wait usually.

THE BEACH-HEAD

is going to be the big blow against the Germans.

Wasn't that the slogan of three months ago?

TODAY

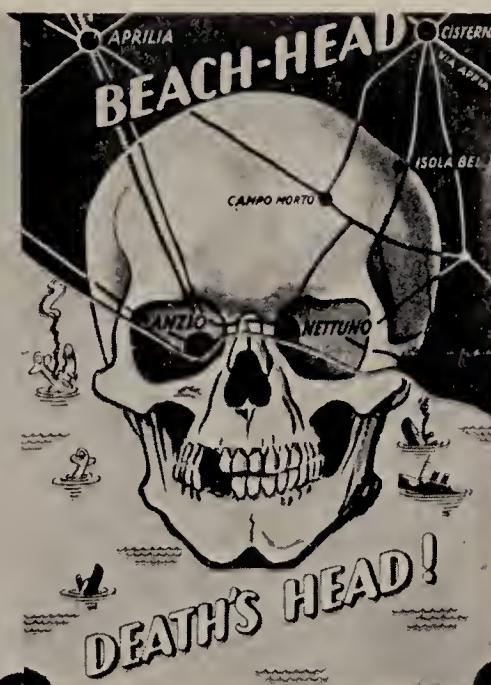
it is still a beach-head and nothing else, but it is now paved with the skulls of thousands of British and American soldiers.

The Beach-Head has become a Death's Head!

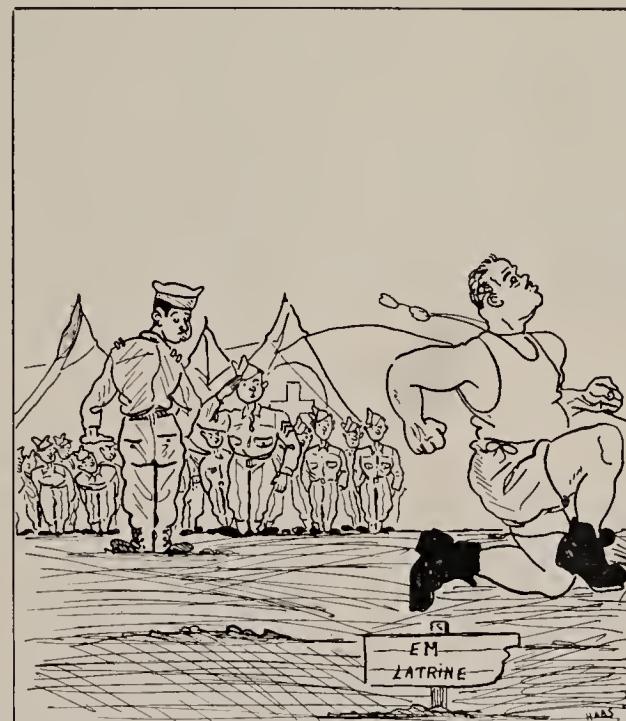
It is welcoming You with a grin, and also those who are coming after you across the sea for an appointment with death.

Do they know what they are in for? Yes, they feel that they are landing on a

DEATH'S HEAD



German propaganda leaflet dropped on Anzio



GET OUT OF MY WAY-I CAN'T WAIT!

Returning Home in Formia but to what?





On deck of L.S.T. from Naples to Anzio one rainy night

Rome—from Garibaldi Park





Buon Pastore, our "home" for 11 months

The Detachment was alerted for another move at 1100 hours on 15th June. On the 17th all men were called back from D. S. in the Naples area. An advance party left for Rome at 0400 on 18 June. Four days later on the 19th of June the Detachment left Maddaloni at 1400 hours and traveled by truck to Rome, arriving there at 2100 hours. Every time the Sixth moved it rained. At Maddaloni all our hospital supplies had to be loaded onto trucks during a heavy rain and when the trucks arrived in Rome the unloading was performed in the rain. Everyone managed to keep warm, if not dry by engaging in loading or unloading details. There was lots of work to be done and it was done quickly and ef-

ficiently. Each and every man of the Detachment labored to the extent of his stamina.

At Rome the Sixth moved in on the 56th Evacuation Hospital in a huge building named "Buon Pastore" (Good Shepherd) which had been, prior to our occupancy, successively a home for wayward girls, an Italian Military Hospital, and a German Military Hospital. The building was filthy. Each succeeding occupant had left the building in more of an unsanitary mess. Half of the Detachment was immediately put to work cleaning out trash, scrubbing walls, halls and stairways and preparing the building to house as many patients as possible as quickly as possible. Hundreds

Main entrance to hospital



All roads lead to Rome



Dome and Chapel in courtyard





Out for exercise



Much time was spent in Rome sight-seeing.

Setting up in Rome



of infested mattresses were burned. All beds left behind by the Italian or German Army were disinfected.

In addition to making ready the hospital building other details set to work erecting tents for enlisted and officer personnel in grain fields adjacent to the hospital building.

In ten days the hospital was set up to the extent of 767 beds. Bivouac areas for the Detachment and for officers and nurses were completed and on 30 June the hospital was opened to receive patients.

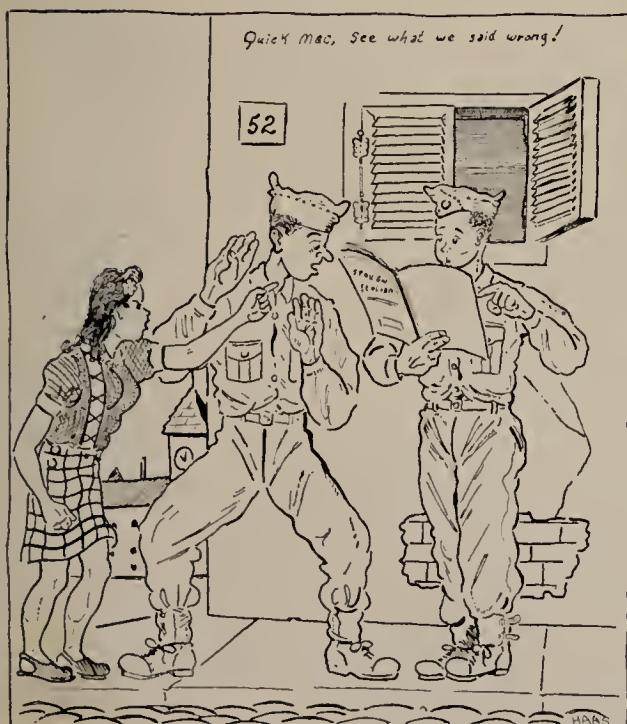
Thus began the most active period for the organization. In one month the Fifth Army drove 150 miles north of Rome. During most of this time the Sixth was the most advanced General Hospital, so we received very large numbers of patients. We were fortunate on the 14th of July when the 90th Italian Service Company of the 23rd Service Battalion was assigned to the unit to supplement the Detachment. This company was made up of 5 officers and 214 Alpini, all from northern Italy, powerfully built and full of energy. Their services were put to good use as litter bearers, laborers, cooks' helpers and janitors. As litter bearers they were superior, once they took hold of a litter they didn't let go or stop until they had carried the patient to the bedside. 30 litter teams all consisting of one American and three Italians admitted and evacuated 600 patients in one day during the 5th Army push to the Gothic Line.

On the 30th of August the Sixth was reorganized under War Department Table of Organization and Equipment No. 8-550 and designated a 1500 bed General Hospital with an expansion capacity up to 2300 beds. Authorized strength of the detachment was increased to 562.

On 1st September 5 day rest periods were initiated for the Detachment. Men were sent to the 5th Army Rest Center in Rome or given passes to visit any part of the Peninsular Base Section.

At the noon meal on the 6th of September the Detachment was served potato salad that had been partially prepared the evening of the 5th then completed before lunch on the 6th. About 1500 hours several men complained of cramps and nausea. By 1600 hours one fourth of the Detachment was stretched out on the nearest available beds, pale, weak and vomiting from the effects of food poisoning from contaminated potato salad. Before the day had ended 166 men of the unit had been admitted to the hospital. Prompt and efficient medical attention made their stay in the hospital a short one and all men had recovered and were discharged from the hospital by 8th September.

It was interesting to note that ambulant patients volunteered as litter bearers to help out as best they could in time of need. On many wards the attendants became ill and were put to bed and waited on by the patients. A complete reversal of the status quo of personnel in many hospital wards occurred in a few moments time.



Top: St. Peter's, largest cathedral in the world

Center: Castel Sant'Angelo, once Hadrian's tomb, later a citadel of the popes

Bottom: The Colosseum, land mark of Rome. Our guidebook said it could accommodate 87,000 spectators.



*A Close up
The Roman Forum*



View in Roman forum



Rest center in Rome

In September the 5th Army's push into the Gothic Line caused high casualty rates and a large increase in patient strength of the Sixth. Under our new Table of Organization 21 former patients were transferred to the detachment on 21 September. On 24 October 42 more men who were former patients were transferred to the detachment. These transfers brought the detachment up to authorized strength for the first time since coming overseas.

Early in November the War Department Reconversion policy was announced. That was; to convert general service personnel from the service forces into combat troops and to replace such service personnel with limited assignment soldiers who had been wounded in action or were no longer able to stand combat duty. Rosters of all General Service men from the detachment were submitted to higher Headquarters. On 13th November 109 Limited assignment personnel joined the Sixth. On 17th November the axe fell on the detachment and 27 E.M., were transferred to the 1st Replacement Depot in Rome for Infantry Conversion Training. Additional groups of 26 and 27 men departed on 17th and 24 November for the same type of training. Many of the men lost to reconversion were ones that had been with the Sixth since days at Camp Blanding. Their departure left us all sad, but this was war, we had work to do. The replacements for the men we lost all learned their jobs quickly and the Sixth carried on almost as well as ever.

With the coming of winter months coal stoves were installed in detachment tents. On dark cold days with all stoves going the detachment area looked very much like a "Little Pittsburgh".

Patient strength fell off as the armies in the mountains far to the north holed up for the winter. On 15th December we broke camp and moved the detachment into the hospital building. On 16th December the Surgeons Office began calling on the Sixth for men to be sent on Detached Service to supplement the personnel of other hospitals in Italy.

On 22 December the hospital was closed to patients and packing in anticipation of a future move proceeded rapidly.

On 25 December the detachment celebrated its 2nd Xmas overseas. Santa again

visited each member of the detachment and left a gift from the American Red Cross. Most of the detachment visited St. Peters Cathedral for mass by Pope Pius XII on Xmas Eve. Christmas dinner was turkey with all the trimmings. Col. Goethals and Major Herwick joined the detachment for the delicious repast.

Our second New Years overseas was celebrated at a party in the Day Room at Buon Pastore. Punch was served until midnight New Years Eve. A turkey dinner on New Years day was enjoyed by all.

A training program to keep the detachment in shape began on the 3rd of January. Cross country hikes, close order drill, daily calisthenics and training films kept us all busy. All men were given Wednesday and Saturday afternoons off and had all day Sunday free. It was during the training period that the men with some free time on their hands made interesting sight-seeing tours of Rome and near by towns of historic and cultural importance.

A unit school was established offering courses in Psychology, Mathematics, Italian, French, Bookkeeping and Music Appreciation. About 50% of the detachment enrolled in one or more of the on duty study courses.

On 5th January several groups of men were sent on Detached Service to the 8th Port Headquarters in Naples to the dispensary at Anzio, to the 73rd Station Hos-

Plowing time in Italy



Top to bottom:
X marks the spot where trucks loaded and unloaded passengers to Rome.—
Going in.—Coming back to Camp



Where the Tiber river flows

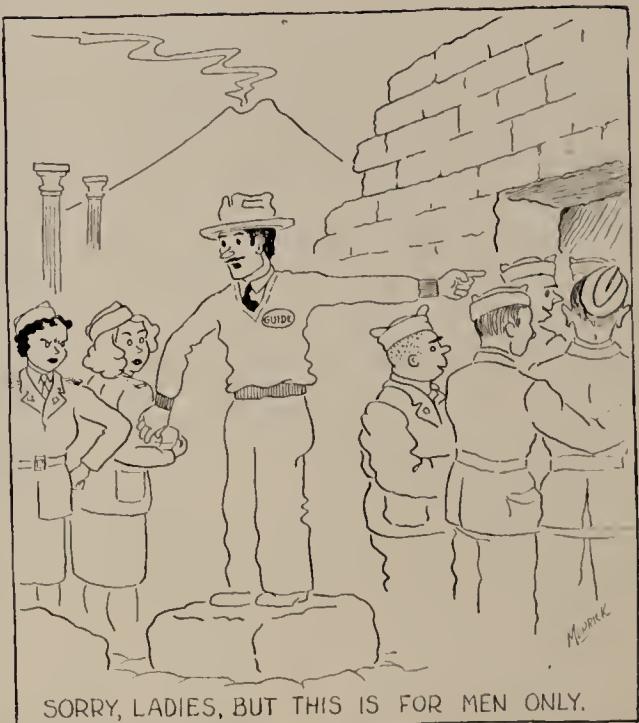
pital in Rome, to the Surgeons Office at Leghorn and to the 50th Station Hospital at Pisa.

On the 17th of January 37 E.M., were ordered to proceed from Rome, Italy to Leghorn to board and operate a Hospital Train. The train was adequately christened "Kelleys Komet" and made several trips for evacuation of patients from Florence to Leghorn.

The 18th of January is memorable for one interesting event. Some unknown person had days earlier contaminated the detachment buglers trumpet with germs which carry measles. Bugler Stankowski was admitted to the hospital this date. The second string bugler Pfc. Lindner took over and he too caught the bug. There was nothing left to do but promote our "Third Stringer" Pfc. Burke to the honored post. Burke tried but for ten days when the bugle sounded we didn't know whether it was reveille, chow or taps.

The 34th Station Hospital moved into Buon Pastore 19 January and opened Station on one side of the building. The detachment was quartered on the other side. It was convenient once again to have a hospital at our doorstep.

On the evening of 12 February 1945 the detachment was four days late in celebrating the end of its second year overseas. A party was held in the detachment mess hall.



Street Venders sold everything from nuts to jewelry

Everyone of the 342 "original contemptibles", still with the organization, except those on Detached Service and the 220 replacements were on hand for a rousing good time. Col. Goethals gave the principal address of the evening and Major Herwick reviewed interesting experiences of the Sixth in days gone by. Col. Goethals cut a huge anniversary cake after which there was plenty to eat and drink for all present.

Four deserving Enlisted Men applied for and were granted commissions in the Medical Administration Corps. of the Army of the U. S. Master Sgt. Gick and Howlowka and Sgt. Boyer were commissioned 2nd Lt's. at a ceremony held in the hospital theatre on 23 February. Technical Sgt. H. E. Munroe was commissioned on 26 February. The loss of these four outstanding men was a gain to the organizations they joined. All had worked long and faithfully, all were equally deserving of the award they received.

The training program continued through February and into March. Hikes were lengthened and individual stamina increased until three fourths of the detachment personnel were able to march four miles in fifty minutes. On marches twice weekly we pleasantly watched Spring arrive in Central Italy. The unit school was well attended and there was lots of free time allotted to athletics, sight seeing and cultural visits to Rome.

On 19th of March Col. Goethals was relieved from assignment and departed for the continental U. S. to assume command of the Lowell General Hospital in Massachusetts. The detachment was saddened by his departure, the "old man" had gone. The best Commanding Officer a soldier could ask for, he had hiked with us through "Death Valley" at Blanding and the snows at Kihner, labored at our side at Casablanca, "sweated out the chow line" with us at Goat Hill and tried to keep as many of us as possible out of the infantry at Rome. We regretted losing the Colonel when the end of the War seemed so near at hand. We had come a long way under his able leadership.

We had long awaited the 15th Army Group push for the Po Valley, on 9th April the Eighth Army launched the drive. The Fifth Army's main forces attacked a week later in the mountains below Bologna. The Krauts collapsed and Bologna fell.





We won't forget Italy and Mud



Stop in Pisa on way to Bologna

The Sixth was alerted on 26th April for movement to the north. At that time there were 382 men present for duty. The remainder were all on Detached Service and doing temporary duty with other hospitals. An advance party of Seventy six men left Rome on 28 April via motor convoy for Bologna and the site chosen for what was to be our last station for operation. The 306 men left in Rome were immediately put on 24 hour duty transporting hospital supplies and equipment from store rooms at Buon Pastore to the freight siding and loading box and flat cars.

It was "touch and go" for 48 hours. In that short space of time 80 railroad freight cars were hand loaded with the equipment needed to operate a General Hospital. The job performed by the men on loading details on this occasion was worthy of the highest praise. They had a big job to do and a deadline to meet. By combined effort we made it. The last freight car was loaded at four o'clock. At four o'clock we departed from Boun Pastore by truck and climbed wearily aboard the passenger train awaiting at the Rome Station. The train cleared the Rome terminal at 1945. Officers, nurses and men rode the same train in sections set aside for each group.

Italian trains were much more comfortable than the 40 and 8's we remember so well from our tours in Africa. At least on this train we had seats (hard wooden ones)

Moving from Rome to Bologna



When in Rome do as the Romans do



Domes of Cathedral from the leaning tower



Leaning tower of Pisa

to sit on and passable latrine facilities. "Ten in one" rations were in order. We all decided that "Ten in ones" are far superior to "C" rations. The rail trip was interesting. We traveled across and along the Arno River for some distance and saw first hand the utter ruin that was left on the cities and towns of Italy by the fortunes of War. (At 1400 hours the rails had been washed out above Florence.)

1st May we detrained in a driving rain and loaded into trucks for the last leg of our journey. The ride was rough, cold and dangerous over fog shrouded mountain roads that were still full of bomb craters left after the offensive waged over the highway less than a month before.

Many trucks from the convoy became lost in the rain, fog and darkness. Several trucks drove into Bologna and unable to find the chosen location for the hospital

continued on toward Modena. Groups of two or three trucks at a time managed to find the proper location throughout the night. Finally at 0400 hours, 2nd May all the detachment had arrived at the building formerly housing the Engineering School of the University of Bologna. Thanks to the cooks from the advanced party, all men were treated to sandwiches and hot coffee upon arrival in Bologna. Everyone was tired, wet and cold. It took no effort for anyone to get to sleep that night. Imagine the happy surprise that awaited us when we discovered early on 2nd May that the German armies in Italy had surrendered unconditionally effective at 1200 noon the same day. German and American hospitals in advanced stations were immediately flooded with allied and enemy sick and wounded. We were ordered to make ready to receive patients as soon as possible.

City of Florence





Convoy leaving Florence en route to Bologna



Arriving in Bologna after a long hard trip



Anzio small pox. Bomb and shell craters from the air



Equipment arrives at Bologna

City of Bologna

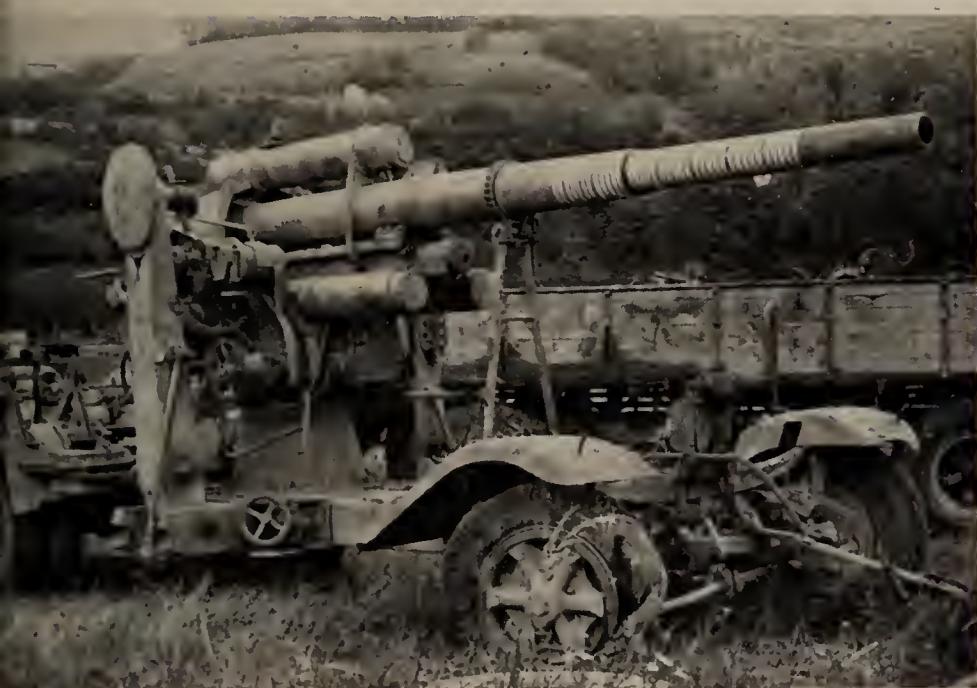




Rumor factory



We will never forget our band



This is it — A German 88



The wailing wall

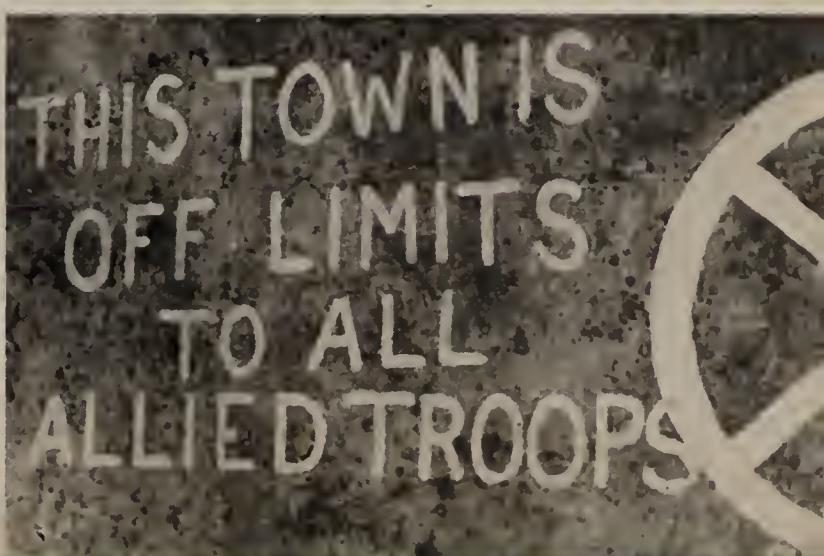
The Arcaded streets of Bologna



*Area showing
Club house
and Det.
Headquarters*



*Jerry and
Fascisti
Snipers
Downtown—
Stay Out!*





Hospital entrance in Bologna



Air view of hospital bldg. in Bologna



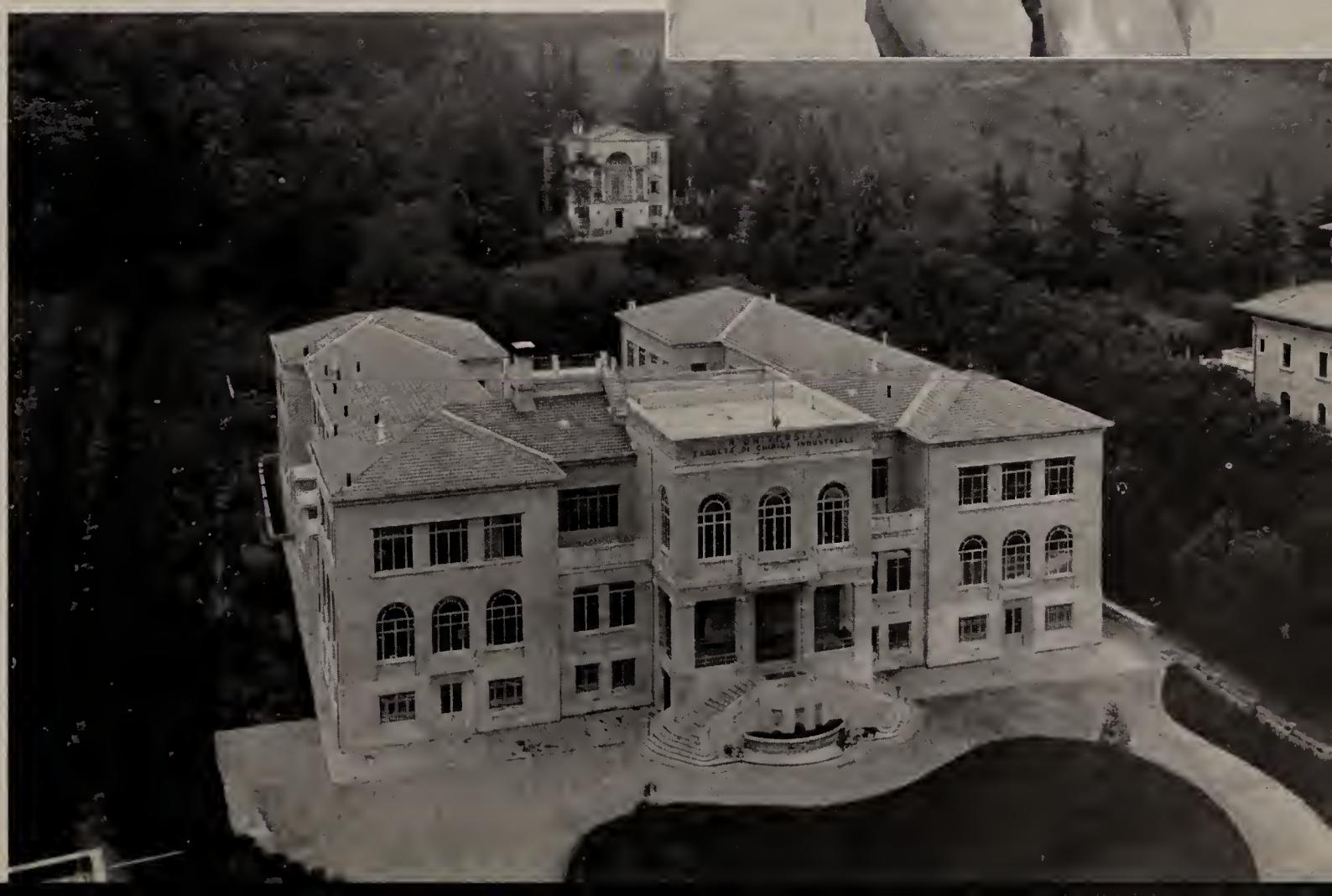


Officers' area

*Chow
line*



Nurses' quarters in Bologna





Formal Guard Mount



"The Big Four"

Remember this?



6th GENERAL...

The first guard was pulled with the 6th General Hospital in Casablanca, with approximately twenty men. The only available weapons were tent pegs. Two months later during the Arab uprising the guards were issued O3 rifles with one clip of shells apiece. Regular guard detail was finally turned over to the leadership of Sergeant Robert Parrent.

The Arabs stole many things from the Detachment. They always carried knives and were very tricky—in due time this trouble was eliminated by the capture of these men. Any person outside of our own organization would have to present a permit before being admitted to our area.

Many men will recall our "Mascot" of the guards—a small long-eared mongrel called "Spitfire". He was a favorite with all the men until Army regulations forbade dogs to be in the area. Many times during the wee hours of the morning his bark would advise the men on duty that an Arab intruder was approaching the area.



Inspection



Formal Guard Mount

GUARDS

In Casablanca the guard drilled once a week and soon became a very snappy unit. Guard mount was held every night in the detachment area. The guards were also responsible for all patients in the hospital regarding protection and leaves.

On one occasion the guard detail accompanied a boatload of prisoner patients on the hospital ship Shamrock from Naples to Oran. In Africa the guard would stand Honorary Guard for the presentation of Purple Hearts once every week. At Caserta the guards would load and unload equipment along with securing the detachment with regular twenty-four hour guard duty.

In Rome and through Bologna the Guards were responsible for protecting all equipment and allowing no one to enter the hospital area without the proper credentials.





Bar ----- and Club Rooms, Bologna



Major Herwick awarding good conduct medals



Between 2nd and 5th of May all men from the detachment were called back to duty with the Sixth from the 64th General Hospital, Hospital train A-1, 2nd Auxiliary Surgical Group and the Surgeons Office PBS.

We were now up against a real battle with time. The detachment worked like the veterans they were. Former experience at setting up the hospital gave all concerned the speed and efficiency necessary to prepare for operation under emergency conditions of any nature. In Casablanca we had taken over a girls school for a hospital, at Rome it was a home for wayward girls, now at Bologna we had little difficulty adapting ourselves to opening station in the Engineering School of the University of Bologna. On 8th May rumors purporting the surrender of the armed might of Germany were verified. V-E Day had finally arrived after 5 1/2 years of bitter and bloody fighting. It was a joyous occasion for the Sixth. A party celebrating the astounding good news was held by the detachment and everyone let loose with all the pent up emotion in their being.

Colonel Prosser joined the Sixth on 5th May and assumed command.

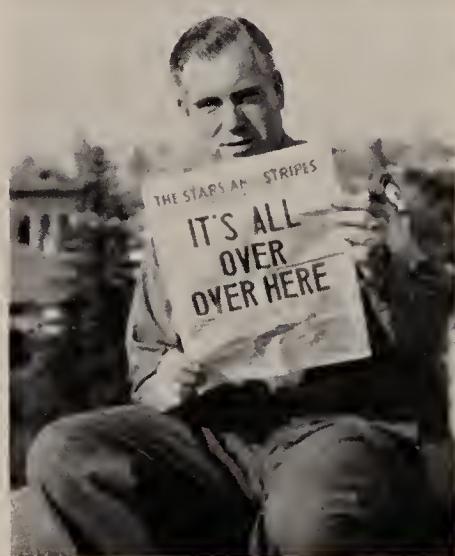
On 9th May the first wards opened. We had broken all records for establishing a General Hospital. In seven days, due to the unselfish effort of all organizational personnel concerned we had transformed an engineering school into a good hospital.



Scenes we all know too well

Most patients were German soldiers so we immediately requisitioned personnel from the German Sanitary Corps to assist in the treatment of German casualties. As the number of German patients in the hospital increased we increased our demands on the Prisoners of War Stockade at Modena for German Sanitary and labor personnel to aid in operating the hospital. By the end of May we had 100 German soldiers to offset the decrease in detachment strength.

During May all men over 40 years of age were returned to the States for discharge. Redeployment went into effect and 14 men with high Adjusted Service Rating Scores were also sent home for discharge. The Detachment moved from the hospital building into the city park adjoining the hospital area. The park had good roads and drainage and tall stately pine trees which added cool comfort to a well landscaped area. Prefabricated huts were set up for Detachment Headquarters and an E.M. club and showers, washrooms and latrines were installed. As days passed, continual improvements were made in and around the detachment area until it became one of the show places of the hospital. Everyone appreciated the bivouac area for what it was; a clean, comfortable, healthy place to live. Men lived five to a tent.



Maj. Kelly's last stand





Redeployment

Daily inspections induced the men to maintain perfect cleanliness and orderliness in their tents. During June an open-air theatre was set up in the area and volleyball and horse-shoe courts were built. The beer ration was dispensed (one bottle per man per day) over the bar at the E.M. Club. There was so much to do at home that a large percentage of the detachment seldom left the area.

As men with high Adjusted Service Rating Scores were transferred from the Sixth other Medical corpsmen with low point scores were assigned to the unit.

Patient census continued to increase and more German Prisoners of War were obtained from prisoner cages to do ward duty and manual labor around the interior and exterior of the hospital building. By 20 June we had 300 Germans on duty with the Sixth. Their labor aided greatly in caring for German patients. The Hoffmans, Kramers, Schmidts, and Richters of the once proud Wehrmacht were only too willing to take orders (and good food) from their American captors.

From 20 June through July into the first weeks of August redeployment was at its peak so far as our unit was concerned. During this time 15 E.M. were transferred to the 83rd Station Hospital with the same future in store for them.

On 28 June 29 E.M. were sent to Venice on seven day rest leaves. This policy was to continue until all men had received seven days free time for rest and recuperation from extended tours of duty. As many men as could be spared from duty were sent to the Army University Study Center at Florence, Italy.

On 8th July, 29 E.M. were transferred to the 74th Station Hospital for direct re-

deployment to the Pacific Theatre. On 15th July, 15 E.M. were transferred to the 21st Station Hospital and 13 men were transferred to the 17th General Hospital, 6 men were transferred to the 70th General Hospital, 5 E.M. transferred to the 882nd Medical Collecting Company, 5 E.M. to the 33rd General Hospital and 2 to the 24th General Hospital. Redeployment was on in earnest. The strength of the detachment had fallen to 435 present for duty.

By 20 July lightning had struck again and detachment ranks were thinned by loss of the following men to units named:

21 Men	182nd Station Hospital
14 Men	33rd General Hospital
23 Men	103rd Station Hospital
3 Men	81st Station Hospital

On 23 July, 22 men were transferred to the 515th Air Service Group located in Naples, Italy.





"San Marco! San Marco!"



St. Marks Cathedral



Left to right: *Bronze Giants on the clock tower, Venice.*—*Bridge of sighs.*—*Feeding the pigeons, Piazza San Marco.*—*Gondolier.*





German prisoners of war being returned to Modena



After closing shop in Bologna



*German Pill Box
near Marina De Pisa*

Blasted Bridge over Volturno river—Before & After



On 30 July, 14 men left the Sixth for the 300th General Hospital, 6 men went to the 70th General Hospital, 2 went to the 17th General, 10 went to 32nd Station Hospital and 7 were transferred to the 7th Station Hospital.

By the end of July we had started to close the hospital at Bologna and were turning in medical and quartermaster supplies to the base depots in anticipation of a move to a staging area. Our work as a unit in the Mediterranean theatre was about to end. Heard all through the Detachment many, many times a day was "Any orders in yet today"?

Col. Prosser departed on 30 July for return to the U. S. He was relieved from assignment and Col. King assumed Command. On 1st August, 9 men were transferred to the 99th Field Hospital.

We closed Station at Bologna, Italy on 12 August and traveled by motor convoy to a staging area at Leghorn. The convoy arrived at the new station at 1200 hours. Men were quartered in one building formerly occupied by the 12th General Hospital.

Arriving at Leghorn our first concern was to set up radio receivers to catch up on the news of the Japanese capitulation. On the 15th of August we had peace at last, all that remained to be done now was to have the Japs sign a formal peace treaty and to occupy the Japanese Islands.

In spite of the fact that the 2nd World War was over we still had to transfer 89 men to other units. This left only 109 men of a former 562 Detachment. These men were of discharge age or possessed 80 points or over.

News of the atomic bomb created a great deal of comment and optimistic speculation. It was inconceivable—"weighs only 400 pounds . . . equivalent effect of 2000 B-29's . . . 20,000 tons of TNT . . . splits the atom . . . one of the secrets of the universe." Everyone could readily understand why this might be the weapon to end the war, and possibly all wars. Word spread that Russia had invaded Manchuria. This was followed quickly by the Soviet Declaration of War. Rumors circulated about Japanese peace offers. Another atomic bomb fell. The White House announced that Japan had proposed peace by accepting the Potsdam ultimatum. "The Allies accept, but the Emperor must follow the orders of the Supreme Allied Commander." A hard decision, but Japan was desperate. There was great excitement throughout the organization. There were tumultuous outbursts of emotion all over the world. Would the Japs submit?

When the tension and repressed emotions of soldiers, sailors, workers, mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts all over the world reached the bursting point, President Truman announced from the White House to a waiting world that there was "PEACE AT LAST."



Harbor Block at Leghorn



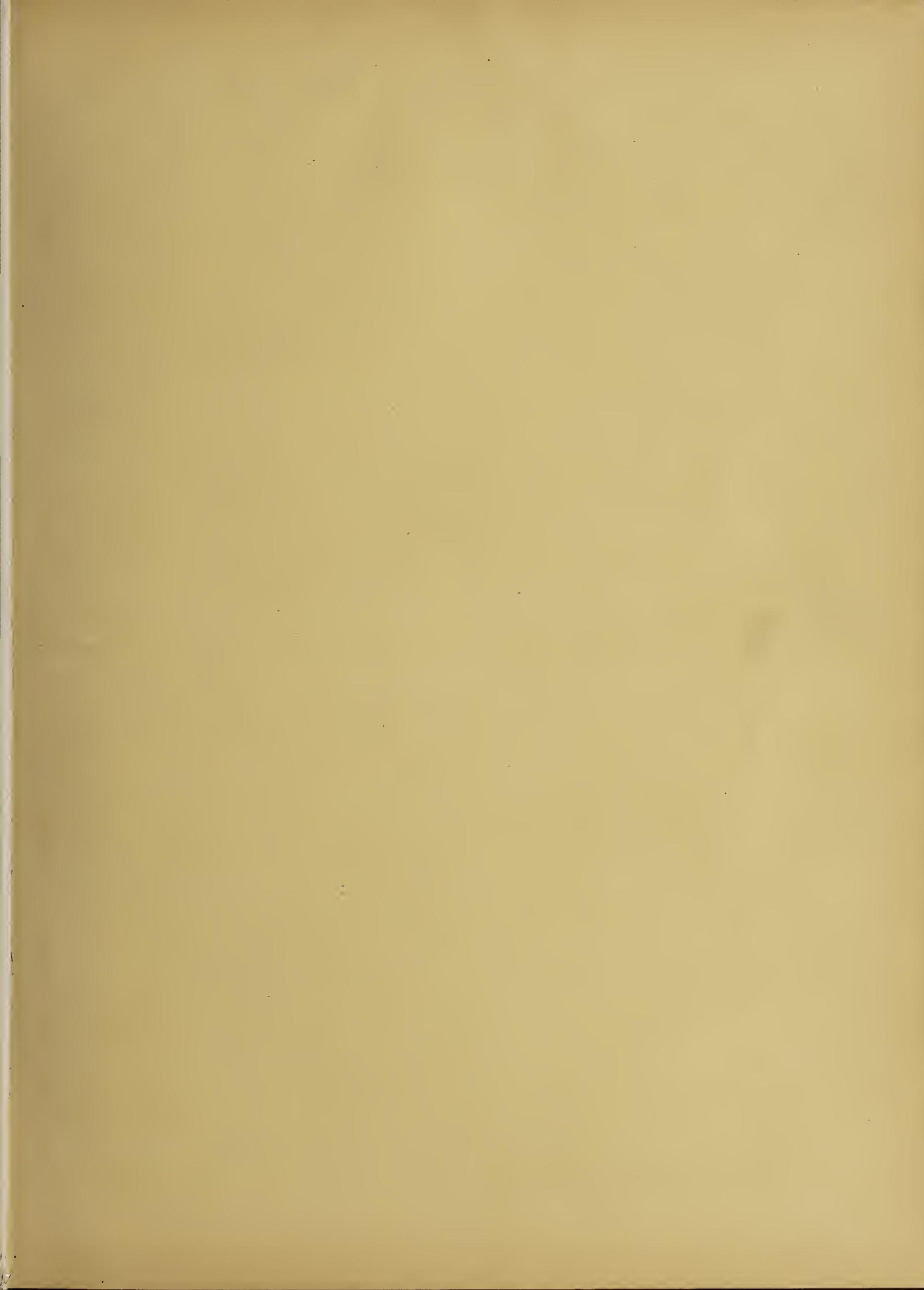
*German P.O.W.'s on transport
from Leghorn to Naples*



*the
end*

SOLDIERS OF ALL NATIONS WHO FOUGHT WITH THE FIFTH ARMY.





This book may be kept

FOURTEEN DAYS

A fine of TWO CENTS will be charged for each day the book is kept over time.



Dec 3 '44

510 84

10-17-44

NOV 13

OCT 14

MESS HALL



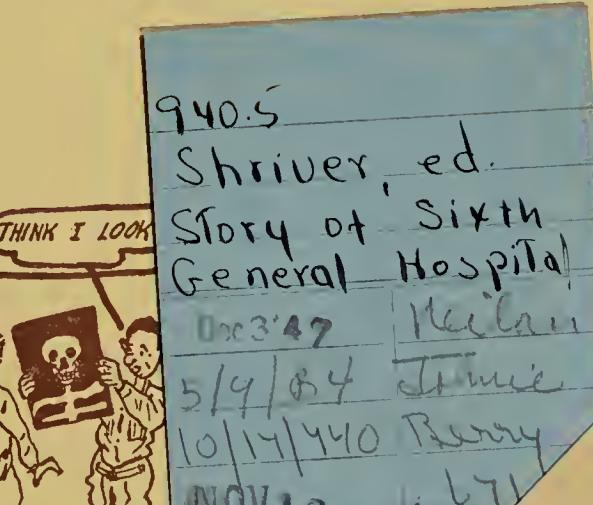
MAJOR GONE
REPORT TO PRE-OP

WILL CAPT.
"WONDER WHERE OR
LT. NEVER THERE" PLEASE
REPORT TO RECEIVING?

WHERE DID YOU
LITTLE BABY BO
COME FROM?



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Hospital



